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NMC puts in place extensive ways to contain costs. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

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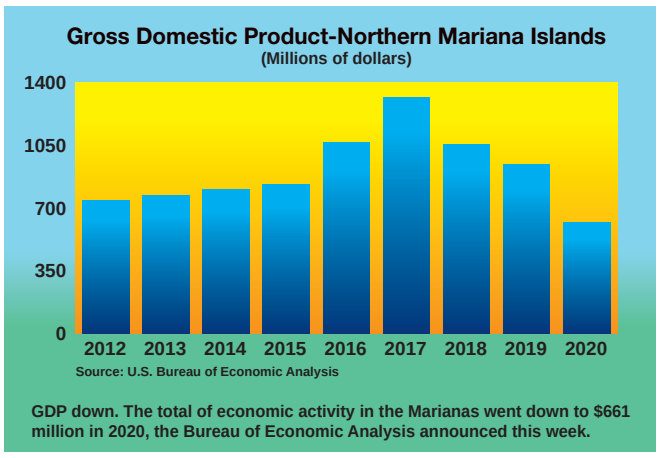
2020 worst year for NMI economy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sablan

The CNMI's Gross Domestic Product plunged by 29.7% in 2020 after a steep drop of 11.3% in 2019, according to statistics released Tuesday by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, with total economic activity in the Marianas going down to $661 million in 2020. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) described 2020 as the worst year for the CNMI economy since before 2002.



GDP down. The total of economic activity in the Marianas went down to $661 million in 2020, the Bureau of Economic Analysis announced this week.

» BEA: CNMI's GDP decreased 29.7% in 2020 mainly due to pandemic

The BEA said the CNMI economy was substantially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic due to its effects on spending by consumers, visitors, businesses, and governments.

GDP refers to the value of the goods and services produced by the CNMI economy minus the value of the goods

See 2020 on Page 4

Council slams closure of IAO

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

The Matua Council for Native Chamorro Advancement is indignant over the closure of the Indigenous Affairs Office, saying the office is constitutionally mandated and protects the interest of the CNMI's indigenous population.

Speaking at a virtual news briefing last Friday, Liana Hofschneider, who is the president and CEO of the Matua

See COUNCIL on Page 4

'Garapan fire was intentional'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

A report from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services that was made public over the weekend states that the fire that severely damaged the former Mom's Round Two Bar and Grill in Garapan was set intentionally.

According to the DFEMS report, the investigation by the DFEMS Division of Fire Prevention and Arson determined that the fire that set

See FIRE on Page 4

WHO: COVID still an emergency but it's nearing 'inflection' point

GENEVA (AP)—The coronavirus remains a global health emergency, the World Health Organization chief said Monday, after a key advisory panel found the pandemic may be nearing an "inflexion point" where higher levels of immunity can lower virus-related deaths.

Speaking at the opening of WHO's annual executive board meeting, WHO Direc-

See WHO on Page 4

WORK CONTINUES
Renovations continue on the long-awaited Route 323 Industrial Drive road improvement project headed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works. Industrial Drive is the strip of road stretching from behind the Army Reserve to the CNMI Seaport. The anticipated completion date of the project is May 31, 2023.
KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

INSIDE

LOCAL
The CNMI'S obtains an estimated $2.7 million ad exposure in travel the show, "Tabi Salad."
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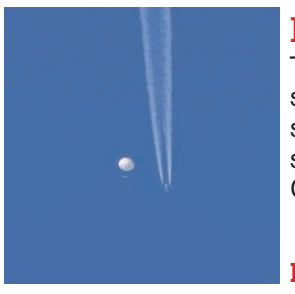

NATION
The U.S. military shoots down a suspected Chinese spy balloon off the Carolina coast.
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LIFE & STYLE
Jennifer Coolidge is honored as the 2023 Woman of the Year by Hasty Pudding Theatricals.
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Local

House unanimously passes bill that sets SOCA rules

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously passed Friday a bill that Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) had offered to establish the process for the delivery of a governor's State of the Commonwealth Address.

All 20 representatives voted "yes" to pass Yumul's House Bill 23-4 in last week's House session. No discussion was made. The bill now goes to the Senate for action.

Yumul had introduced a similar bill in the previous legislature. In re-introducing the bill, Yumul offered all members the opportunity to sign on to the legislation, noting that the bill was passed overwhelmingly in the last House.

Floor leader Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) moved for the passage of House Bill 23-4 on first and final reading.

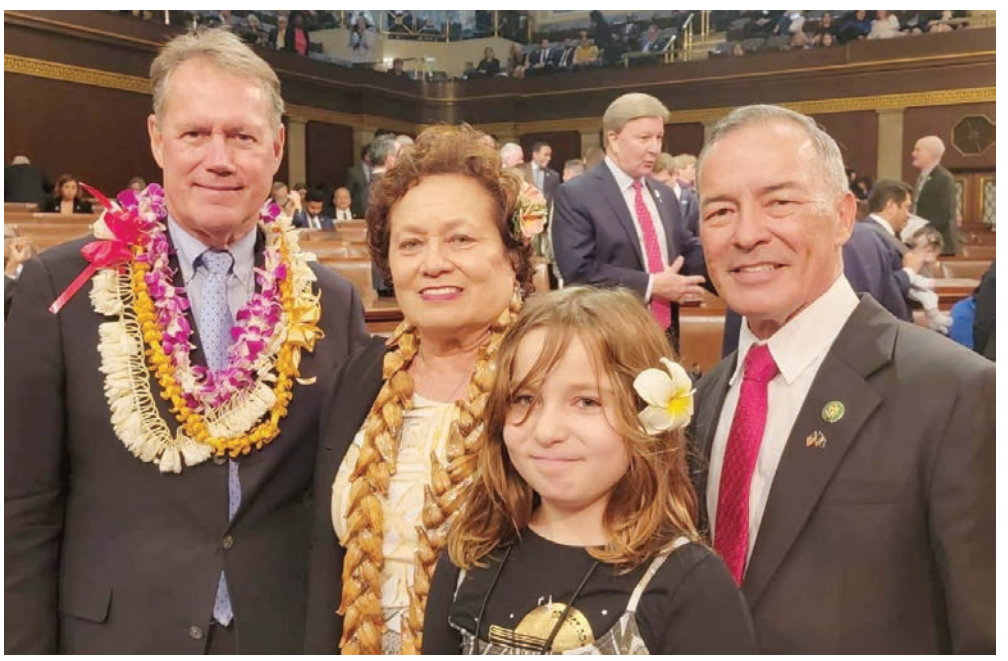
Under the bill, the governor shall deliver an annual SOCA to the Legislature no later than March of any calendar year, and may present the SOCA live, recorded, or in writing. A written or recorded SOCA shall be transmitted by the governor to the Senate president and speaker of the House for delivery to legislative members.

Prior to any live SOCA, the governor shall give written notice of a proposed date and time to both the Senate president and House speaker no later than 45 days prior to the proposed date in order for the Legislature to consider a joint resolution setting out the time and place for the SOCA.

If such a resolution fails to pass in both Senate and House, the governor shall submit only a written or recorded SOCA.

Last Nov. 30, the House passed similar bill that Yumul filed and co-sponsored by majority members. The Senate, however, never acted on it. The House also did not pass the Senate's version of the bill.

SOCA was controversial in the last few months of former governor Ralph DLG Torres' term when the Senate and House adopted different dates and venues for SOCA last October, causing an impasse. This prompted Torres to cancel his planned SOCA indefinitely.



Delegate Uifa'atali Amata (R-Amer. Samoa) and her granddaughter pose with Delegate James Moylan (R-GU) and Rep. Ed Case (D-HI).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Amata stays on Veterans Affairs Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Uifa'atali Amata (R-Amer. Samoa) will once again serve on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs for the 118th Congress, as she has since the people of American Samoa first sent her to represent them in Congress. After expressing interest in three committees to House leadership, they granted a special request for a waiver allowing her to serve on all three of her top choice committees for the next two years.

The committee has oversight of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and all policy concerning veterans. As previously announced, Amata will serve on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, a new role this term, and continue on the Committee on Natural Resources, as expected.

Committees are busy with organizational efforts and numerous meetings, so subcommittee assignment announcements for the three committees are yet to come.

The House Veterans' Affairs Committee is led by Rep. Mike Bost of Illinois, a veteran who served in the U.S. Marine Corps, and is a lifelong public servant, as a firefighter who served in the Illinois legislature then Congress, where he was already serving as ranking member of the Veterans Affairs Committee.

"I was delighted to get a call on Tuesday evening confirming leadership's approval of my request for a third committee, so I can serve our veterans in the most direct way possible," said Amata. "American Samoa is proud of our many veterans, military families and future veterans currently serving, and I'm humbled to work on veterans' care and services, and VA oversight."

"In my years on the committee, we've increased support for VA services and retaining skilled personnel," she added. "We've started important reforms to the VA and modernization efforts that must be seen through, and have more to do on mental care and preventing suicides. I look forward to sharing more about my role on the committee as it develops, and Chairman Bost's leadership vision to improve the outlook for those who served."

Amata serves as co-chair of the Pacific Islands Caucus, and has a new expanded role in the 80-plus member Western Caucus as a vice chair. ***(PR)***

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Palacios: Still many holdouts among previous appointees

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Despite sending out memoranda to various semi-autonomous agencies to ask for the voluntary resignation of their board and commission members, there have been a lot of holdouts who have yet to step down.

Speaking at a news briefing last Thursday, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios disclosed that there are still a lot of holdouts among board members of some semi-autonomous agencies. One of the boards Palacios was referring to was the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors.

Saipan Tribune learned from a reliable source that, to date, over a month since the inauguration of the new administration, only MVA board chair Viola Alepuyo has stepped down from her post. The rest of the board have yet to tender their resignations.

Palacios

"There's a lot of holdouts. I don't want to go through everyone of these boards but yes, there are a lot of holdouts, with board [members] who believe they can serve under this administration.

When asked what he is doing about it, Palacios stated that his administration is working on reappointments or replacing members with new appointees.

"We will deal with this next week. We are putting together reappointments and new appointees for these positions. We will let everyone know," he said.

Aside from semi-autonomous agencies, a lot of government agencies have yet to have appointed heads, leaving a large number of Cabinet seats empty.

One of these departments is the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Police director Aniceto T. Ogumoro is the acting DPS commissioner, but a permanent appointee to the position has yet to be named. All secretary-level appointees require the consent and confirmation of the Senate.

Palacios said that, although DPS is one of the most critical departments, because of the many controversies surrounding the department, the administration is taking careful consideration of who they appoint to this position.

The governor added that applications for Cabinet members are still being accepted and are still being vetted to date and he hopes the positions will be filled soon.

The governor added that he has held off on announcing other Cabinet members because many are still off island.

In closing, Palacios said he expects nothing but hard work and dedication from their appointees.

Rios to bring analytical skills to bear

Acting Commerce secretary Joseph Rios. FERDIE DE LA TIORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The newly appointed secretary for the Department of Commerce, Joseph Santos Rios Jr., said last week that he will bring analytical skills best suited to deal with business and economic activities, regulations, and responsible adaptation to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

"It is no secret that the CNMI is experiencing dark days ahead, and during times of hardships and uncertainties comes adaptation and innovative ideas," said Rios in a statement.

Rios was among the appointees to the Cabinet that Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang introduced to the media and public during a press conference Wednesday afternoon. His appointment requires the Senate's consent. Until then, he is the Commerce secretary in an acting capacity.

Rios has a bachelor's degree in Business with a major in International Business at Shidler College of Business, University of Hawaii, Manoa. He acquired a law degree or juris doctor from Thomas M. Cooley School of Law in Michigan.

Rios previously worked in the legal field as a prosecutor at Thurston County in Olympia, the capital city of Washington State.

He assisted the elderlies in the state of Michigan who sought justice against those who took advantage over their affairs and livelihood.

At present, Rios runs a family business in Garapan. His wife is Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan).

Dilse earns Dean's List honor at Lee University

CLEVELAND, TN—Karina Dilse of Saipan has made it to the Dean's List of Lee University during the fall 2022 semester.

Dean's List recognition is earned by full-time, undergraduate students with a semester grade point average between 3.7 and 4.00.

Lee University is a private, Christ-centered university in Cleveland, Tennessee, in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. For more information, visit www.leeuniversity.edu. ***(PR)***

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PACIFICPOINTS
IT&E

Bill to include public libraries in net metering passes House

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously passed Friday a bill that will include public libraries in the priority for net metering once the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. expands its renewable energy capacity.

Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) is the author of the bill, House Bill 23-6. Several others co-sponsored the legislation.

Before the voting, Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) thanked Sablan for introducing "such a great bill." Yumul, however, stated that they must also remember that there are other residents that are also suffering from the high cost of CUC power. Yumul urged Rep. Vicente Aldan (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee, to look into opening net metering to everyone so that the islands can pay a lower power cost by having everybody install power solar system or solar panels in their homes.

Sablan

Sablan stated in the bill that including public libraries in the definition of education entities will allow libraries to qualify and apply for federal grants that support the administration's priorities for clean energy to power the future in the U.S. territories as part of the lager efforts toward energy security in America.

He stated that the purpose of Public Law 18-75 was to provide a definition for net metering and to prioritize the interconnection with net metering for health and education renewable energy capacity at CUC.

Sablan said that, over time, this will save millions of dollars in utility costs and utilize the money saved for other essential needs of the public health and education entities.

Probable cause found to try man accused of machete attack

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has found probable cause to try a man for aggravated assault, among other charges, after he allegedly assaulted another man with a machete.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo found probable cause to try John Chandler Hamilton for aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace. Hamilton, 35, was ordered to return to court today for his arraignment.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Hamilton is accused of striking an acquaintance with a machete in a fit of rage and leaving a deep laceration on the victim's hand.

Police reports state that on Jan. 18, at around 7:55am, officers were flagged down by a man who wanted to report a disturbing the peace incident. The man was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center for the deep laceration on his hand.

In an interview with the victim, police learned that he was at the Bank of Guam traffic light in Garapan at around 7am that day and was heading south when he saw a Kia Soul in his rearview mirror that he claims to recognize as Hamilton's vehicle.

The man said that Hamilton was tailing him, bumper to bumper, which prompted him to pull his vehicle to the side of the road.

When he got down, he said Hamilton got down too holding a machete.

The victim stated that he saw Hamilton pull off the machete's cover and from about two to three feet away, Hamilton swung the machete at him. The victim said he managed to block the machete with his right hand and got cut on his ring finger. Police noted that the victim had a two-inch long cut on his right ring finger, which was covered in blood.

The victim said he pushed Hamilton away, forcing him to drop the machete, and then he ran back to his car and drove away.

The victim stated that he does not know why Hamilton attacked him since they had just hung out just a few nights before on Jan. 15 and they had no problems.

Police later found the machete on the side of the road near the Gold Beach Hotel along Beach Road.

2020

From Page 1

and services used up in production. The GDP is also equal to the sum of personal consumption expenditures, private fixed investment, change in private inventories, net exports of goods and services, and government consumption expenditures and gross investment.

The BEA said the decrease in the CNMI's real GDP reflected decreases in exports of goods and services, private fixed investment, personal consumption expenditures, and government spending.

BEA's statistics were developed under the Statistical Improvement Program funded by the Office of Insular Affairs of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Due to lags in the availability of data for various components of GDP, the statistics presented last Tuesday for 2020 are preliminary estimates.

In his *e-kilili* newsletter over the weekend, Sablan said the decline in economic activity in the CNMI was largely due to the COVID-19-related drop in tourism, although a slowdown in construction and reduced government expenditures added to the loss.

Despite the lack of tourists, though, private sector workers' earnings fell only slightly and compensation to government workers actually went up during 2020, Sablan said.

This helped support consumer spending, which, although also down slightly, got help from the $180 million in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation the U.S. Congress provided in the CARES Act during 2020, he added.

The Guam GDP also went down in 2020, but only by 11.4%. Sablan said the 2021 GDP for Guam, where data is more available, was up 1.1%.

With respect to the CNMI's GDP, the BEA said the U.S. government passed several laws to support and sustain businesses and individuals through the pandemic. The BEA said expenditures funded by the various federal grants and transfer payments are reflected in the GDP estimates.

However, the BEA said the full effects of the pandemic cannot be quantified in BEA's statistics for the CNMI, because the impacts are generally embedded in the source data and cannot be separately identified.

Exports of goods and services decreased 74.4%. The decrease in exports was largely accounted for by exports of services, which consists primarily of visitor spending, including on casino gambling.

Statistics published by the CNMI government showed that the number of visitor arrivals to the CNMI decreased by 81.7%, reflecting the effects of the pandemic.

The BEA pointed out that, according to publicly available financial statements, revenues from casino gambling decreased by over 95%.

The BEA said private fixed investment decreased by 42.7%, reflecting a decline in spending on structures and equipment.

Private sector construction activity, including the development of a casino resort on Saipan, decreased substantially in 2020.

Personal consumption expenditures decreased 6.2%, reflecting declines in spending on both goods and services.

Businesses throughout the CNMI operated at a reduced capacity due to the pandemic.

Government spending decreased by 6%, reflecting a decline in federal government spending.

Federal government spending decreased 43% after being elevated in 2019 to support recovery activities following Super Typhoon Yutu.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

FIRE

From Page 1

ablaze the abandoned bar and grill was intentional.

"After conducting scene investigations and interviews, it was revealed the fire was set intentionally. A male suspect was arrested on scene," said the report.

Although the suspect, which the *Saipan Tribune* learned is a notorious homeless man who roams the nearby streets, has been apprehended, the man has yet to be brought before a judge.

The report stated that last Feb. 2, at around 1:24pm, fire dispatch received a call reporting a fire at the former Mom's Round Two Bar and Grill.

The first responding units arrived on scene at around 1:26pm and the fire was under control and extinguished at around 1:53pm, DFEMS stated.

There were no fatalities and the fire did not find its way to neighboring establishments or structures.

DFEMS said the building sustained moderate to severe heat and smoke damage and the fire originated from the northern part of the structure and the fire was started from the inside.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the man who called dispatch for assistance said the fire began after a known homeless man came walking out of the abandoned building.

The man who called dispatch told *Saipan Tribune* that he was at the nearby carwash when he noticed the known homeless man enter the abandoned building.

The witness stated that he immediately took out his phone to record a video. In the video that he showed fire investigators, the man he claims could have started the fire was seen leaving the building as flames started to erupt.

The witness stated that he immediately yelled at the suspect, who rapidly walked away once he noticed the man taking a video of him.

Another witness who works at a nearby establishment stated that the homeless man is known to cause trouble in the village, but he has never heard of him committing crimes as serious as arson.

COUNCIL

From Page 1

Council, said the Indigenous Affairs Office has been closed since Jan. 9, 2023, on the day of the inauguration of the new administration of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

"My question to the governor…is why is the office closed? It's a constitutional office," Hofschneider said.

She said she was off island at the time of the election and was surprised when one of her staff called an informed her that the IAO had been closed.

The governor reportedly told her that the office had been closed due to a lack of funding, but Hofschneider argued that the government collects millions of dollars from native lands via the Department of Public Lands, so why close only this office but leave other offices and agencies open. "So that's unsettling," she added.

Hofschneider pointed out that Article 3 Section 23 of the CNMI Constitution mandates the creation of the office and it is supposed to represent the indigenous population and make sure there was an office for them to go to and air their concerns, or if they have an issue. "That's why it's a constitutional office and that's why it's very important."

She said the office was created in the 1985 Second Constitutional Convention. Under the CNMI Constitution, the IAO is headed by a resident executive, whose appointment requires the advice and consent of the Senate.

This simply means, Hofschneider said, that Palacios does not have the constitutional authority to close the IAO unilaterally for reasons that there is no money to open the office, adding that this is a constitutional violation of the intent of the constitutional mandate to serve in the best interest of the Chamorro people. She believes closing the office was a racist act, considering that another constitutionally mandated office, the Carolinian Affairs Office, remains open.

"Honestly, this is really nothing more than a discrimination against the Chamorros, it's racial action by the CNMI government. …It's very sad that in our own home, a very small community, that things like these can happen, it's very unsettling," she added.

The Matua Council for Native Chamorro Advancement has been serving the CNMI as an advocate for the Chamorros since 2010.

WHO

From Page 1

tor-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said "there is no doubt that we're in a far better situation now" than a year ago—when the highly transmissible Omicron variant was at its peak.

But Tedros warned that in the last eight weeks, at least 170,000 people have died around the world in connection with the coronavirus. He called for at-risk groups to be fully vaccinated, an increase in testing and early use of antivirals, an expansion of lab networks, and a fight against "misinformation" about the pandemic.

"We remain hopeful that in the coming year, the world will transition to a new phase in which we reduce hospitalizations and deaths to the lowest possible level," he said.

Tedros' comments came moments after WHO released findings of its emergency committee on the pandemic which reported that some 13.1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered—with nearly 90% of health workers and more than four in five people over 60 years of age having completed the first series of jabs.

"The committee acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic may be approaching an inflexion point," WHO said in a statement. Higher levels of immunity worldwide through vaccination or infection "may limit the impact" of the virus that causes COVID-19 on "morbidity and mortality," the committee said.

"(B)ut there is little doubt that this virus will remain a permanently established pathogen in humans and animals for the foreseeable future," it said. While Omicron versions are easily spread, "there has been a decoupling between infection and severe disease" compared to that of earlier variants.

Committee members cited "pandemic fatigue" and the increasing public perception that COVID-19 isn't as much of a risk as it once was, leading to people to increasingly ignore or disregard health measures like mask-wearing and social distancing.

NMC puts in place extensive ways to contain costs

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College has implemented extensive cost-containment measures due to the current financial crisis facing the CNMI.

NMC Dr. president Galvin Deleon Guerrero issued a presidential directive last Thursday implementing the extensive cost-containment measures for the college.

Deleon Guerrero

"Economic uncertainties and a deepening financial crisis are profoundly impacting the lives of people and organizations across the CNMI. The Commonwealth is bracing for fiscal storms as federal and local funds run short. Given this financial forecast, it is critical that we exercise fiscal responsibility and vigilance in how we conduct our business and how we ultimately fulfill our college's new mission. We will take a proactive approach to take care of our people, our community, and our resources," said Deleon Guerrero.

As part of its cost cutting measures, NMC has suspended the release of third and fourth quarter allocations for fiscal year 2023 Operations Budget for College departments and programs.

In addition, NMC's contractual obligations like security, cleaning, maintenance, information technology, and other payments will be on a case-to-case basis and subject to review and approval.

Also, all non-federally funded travel has been restricted for NMC personnel and federally funded travel will be on a case-to-case basis.

In addition to all of these, comprehensive energy conservations efforts to reduce utilities consumption on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota campuses are now in effect.

Joint hearing for typhoons recovery grant projects

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Rep. Vincent Aldan (Ind-Saipan) have decided to hold a joint public hearing with officials of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. regarding the status of the projects under the $243.9 million Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery grant agreement.

Manglona, who chairs the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, said Thursday last week that he had met with his House of Representatives counterpart, PUTC chair Aldan, and that they agreed to do the hearing jointly, to which the members agreed.

Manglona

"Tough times call for working together," he said.

Manglona and Aldan set the hearing for this Thursday, Feb. 9, at 9am in the Senate chamber.

Manglona was supposed to hold the Senate PUTC hearing last Friday to get an update from NMHC, which administers the funds. The CNMI received an allocation of CDBG-DR funds as a result of the damage it sustained from typhoons Mangkhut and Yutu.

Manglona and Aldan requested NMHC corporate director Jesse S. Palacios, NMHC deputy corporate director Zenie P. Mafnas and many others to provide comments as witnesses.

Among the topics on the agenda are list of infrastructure projects for senatorial districts, housing programs, and Public Assistance Office's listing of projects.

Cap reached for additional returning worker H-2B visas for first half of fiscal year 2023

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has received enough petitions to reach the cap for the additional 18,216 H-2B visas made available for returning workers for the first half of fiscal year 2023 with start dates on or before March 31, 2023, under the recently announced H-2B supplemental cap temporary final rule.

In a news release last Thursday, USCIS said, however, that it continues to accept petitions for H-2B nonimmigrant workers for the additional 20,000 visas allotted for nationals of Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

"We recently began accepting H-2B petitions under the Dec. 15 temporary final rule increasing the cap by up to 64,716 additional H-2B nonimmigrant visas for fiscal year 2023. Of the 64,716 additional visas, 44,716 were available only for returning workers. The remaining 20,000 visas are set aside for nationals of Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras who are exempt from the returning worker requirement," the news release states.

Petitioners whose workers were not accepted for the 18,216 returning-worker allotment are encouraged to file under the Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras allotment while visas remain available. As of Jan. 26, 2023, USCIS has received petitions requesting 4,260 workers under the 20,000 visas set aside for nationals of Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

"We will continue to accept H-2B petitions for workers filing under the Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras allotment, as well as those who are exempt from the congressionally mandated cap," USCIS said.

This includes petitions for:

· Current H-2B workers in the United States petitioning to extend their stay and, if applicable, change the terms of their employment or change their employers;

· Fish roe processors, fish roe technicians, and/or supervisors of fish roe processing; and

· Workers performing labor or services in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands and/or Guam (until Dec. 31, 2029). ***(PR)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Duties and Responsibilities: Verify customer and order information for correctness, checking it against previously obtained information as necessary. Receive customer orders and respond to customer complaints. Review orders for completeness. Inform customers of order information, such as unit prices, or shipping dates, and any anticipated delays. Obtain customers' names, addresses, and billing information. Recommend merchandise that will meet customers' needs. Prepare invoices according to orders received. Check inventory records to determine availability of requested merchandise. Collect payment for merchandise ordered, record transactions and send items such as cash and checks for further processing at the mXain office. File copies of invoices, delivery receipts and other pertinent documents. Adjust or record inventory movement such as warehouse transfers. Perform other related duties assigned.
Qualification Requirements: Must be High School graduate. Proficient with Personal Computers and software. Knowledge of basic mathematics and basic calculations. Good communication skills.

Position: Delivery Driver
Duties and Responsibilities: Drive a light truck or van, primarily to deliver goods or merchandise. Load and unload truck or van with merchandise verifying the contents against invoice documents. Perform mathematical computation in case of returns or adjustments. Present bill or invoice and collect payments for goods delivered. Turn in complete invoice copies and money received from deliveries. Inspect vehicle before using to ensure that vehicles are in proper working condition and record results in a vehicle log sheet. Report any mechanical problems encountered with the vehicle. May be required to load and unload merchandise in the container, help in stacking merchandise in the warehouse shelves manually or by using forklift. Perform other duties related to warehouse activity as needed from time to time.
Qualification Requirements: High School graduate with minimum one year work related experience required. Must be able to lift at least 50 lb. objects daily. Must be proficient in mathematical calculations. Must be able to speak and communicate clearly. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and possess a good driving record. Must pass a Driver's Medical Health Screening including drug test.

Position: Warehouse Worker
Duties and Responsibilities: Unload merchandise from container to be stocked in warehouse shelves manually or by using dolly, pallet jack, or forklift. Examine and inspect merchandise for any damage or spoilage, reporting any discrepancy or damage. Receive and count merchandise, and record data manually or using computer. Clean and maintain supplies, tools, equipment, and storage or work areas to ensure compliance with safety regulations. Provide assistance or direction to other warehouse workers and perform other related duties assigned.
Qualification Requirements: Minimum one year work related experience required. Ability to perform physical activities that require considerable use of arms and legs and moving the whole body such as climbing, lifting, balancing, walking, stooping, and handling of materials. Must be able to do strenuous work such as unloading container vans, stacking, lifting, carrying, and moving heavy objects. Must be able to lift 50 to 80 lbs. frequently and up to 90 lbs. occasionally. Must pass food handler certification

To apply:
Apply in person or send complete and detailed resume to: Yaong Corporation Unit 6 Rem Ctr. Cheribiyan Dr Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to P.O. Box 505946, Saipan, MP 96950, or by e-mail to yaong.hr2@gmail.com. Police clearance, background check, and drug test may be required prior to employment.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2023

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated $1,576,020.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $980,125.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $515,489.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $80,406.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2023.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single-family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 19, 2022.

You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhcgov.net in the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" subsection "Community Planning Development"

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **March 20, 2023, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 20, 2023, will not be accepted.**

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

February 13, 2023, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan
February 14, 2023, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian
February 16, 2023 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office at the NMC Campus, Building A; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at 234-6866 or 234-9447.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

De Leon is the new GMS spelling bee champ

Seventh-grade student Rihanna De Leon emerged as the new Scripps Spelling Bee Champion of Green Meadow School after successfully spelling the word "Panuelo" during the championship round last Jan. 27, 2023, at the GMS campus.

De Leon was the last student standing on the 18th round of the competition after besting 17 students from first grade to eighth grade classes. It was a tough win for De Leon as she went head-to-head with other three top spellers who continued to correctly spell the words from 2023 Words of the Champion list (Words of the Champion was Scripps' official source of spelling words for the competitions) for five consecutive rounds. During the 18th round, the pronouncer had drawn out a word that was not included on the official list to test De Leon's knowledge on spelling and vocabulary words.

Green Meadow School 2023 Scripps Spelling champion Rihanna Grace De Leon. GMS

From left, first runner up Paula Angela Bernardo , competition champion Rihanna Grace De Leon , and second runner-up Isabella Marie Mallari. GMS

"Panuelo", the 7th grader's winning word, comes from a Spanish word meaning "a square cloth folded triangularly and worn in the Philippines like a great ruffle or collar."

Second place went to Paula Bernardo (8th grade) who lost the champion spot after failing to spell the word "fado", a plaintive Portuguese folk song. Isabella Mallari (7th grade) came in third place, and Rosemarie Gamelo (8th grader) was the fourth-place winner.

The Green Meadow School administrators , faculty, staff, and parents would like to congratulate all the participants during the School Spelling Bee Championship as they were all winners from their classroom spelling elimination. The following students were:

1st Grade
Liam Roi S. Buston
Nathan Angelo M. Reyes
Kira H. George

2nd Grade
Rhussel Umali
Ian Noel Escarcha
Joseph Paul Leuma

3rd Grade
Jayden Pulido
Jadynn Palacios
Jeron Marzo

4th Grade
Rayne Angela Roquelara
Geri Liam Angelo Espiritu
Albert Miguel Santos

5th Grade
Nicole Tongonan
Jamie Palabay
Jewel Mabaquiao

6th Grade
Paul Andrei Bernardo
Jacie Heart Quindoza
Savan Andrea Rithwong

7th Grade
Rihanna Grace De Leon
Isabella Marie A. Mallari
Nelisa Nicole Acaba

8th Grade
Cody Ryan Santos
Rosemarie Gamelo
Paula Angela Bernardo ***(PR)***

Power outages on Feb. 7, 8, 9

There will be scheduled power service interruptions on Feb. 7, 8 and 9, 2023, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues its ongoing system maintenance.

TUESDAY, Feb. 7, 2023

■ Time: 11am to 2pm
■ Area(s) affected: Obyan.
■ Purpose: To replace burnt high voltage electrical tape on the primary bushings on the pole mounted transformer at the OB-3 water well.
■ Water well(s) affected: OB-1 to OB-24 Water Wells.
■ Area(s) affected: Koblerville, San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa and Susupe.
■ Wastewater facility affected: None

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 8, 2023

■ Time: 8:30am to 2:30pm
■ Area(s) affected: HAN-MI Hardware in Garapan.
■ Momentary power service interruption
❑ Time: 8:30am to 9am and 2pm to 2:30pm
❑ Area(s) affected: Garapan and Upper MIHA Housing.
■ Purpose: To remove decommissioned concrete poles, due relocation of the primary lines in front of the Sugar King Park.
■ Water well(s) affected: None
■ Wastewater facility affected: None, however, temporary bypass will be monitored during the interruption period.

THURSDAY, Feb. 9, 2023

■ Time: 9am to 1pm
■ Area(s) affected: Santa Lourdes in As Teo.
■ Purpose: To replace a rotted primary pole along Chaim Santa Lourdes in As Teo.
■ Water well(s) affected: None
■ Wastewater facility affected: None

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-011

LOWER MIHA SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Lower Miha Sewer Line Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of but not limited to the installation of gravity sewer main, new sewer manholes, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the abandonment of existing sewerline, removal and disposal of existing sewer manholes.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on January 24, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-23-011, Lower Miha Sewer Line Replacement"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 7, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 27, 2023** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer for Water/Wastewater via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Dennis Formalejo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-23-014

ISLAND WIDE ROAD RESTORATION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Road Restoration, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation, placing of flowable fill and asphalt to restore pavement areas cut by CUC to repair waterlines, sewerlines and customers' water service connections. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC and DPW. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year if exercised by CUC.

The Bid Package will be emailed, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable), after registration at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **February 6, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-23-014, Island Wide Road Restoration"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 28, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other security acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 10, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne C. Ogumoro Acting Water & Wastewater Division Manager – via email yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

VA Pacific Islands Health Care System

Veterans

PACT Act Registration and Community Call

February 8-9, 2023 | 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Hyatt Regency Saipan 873 Micro Beach Rd, Garapan, Saipan 96950

★ **Services Available** ★

- PACT Act Registration
- Vaccines
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Health Screenings
- Diabetic Foot Checks
- VA Benefits Assistance

For more information call 1-800-214-1306

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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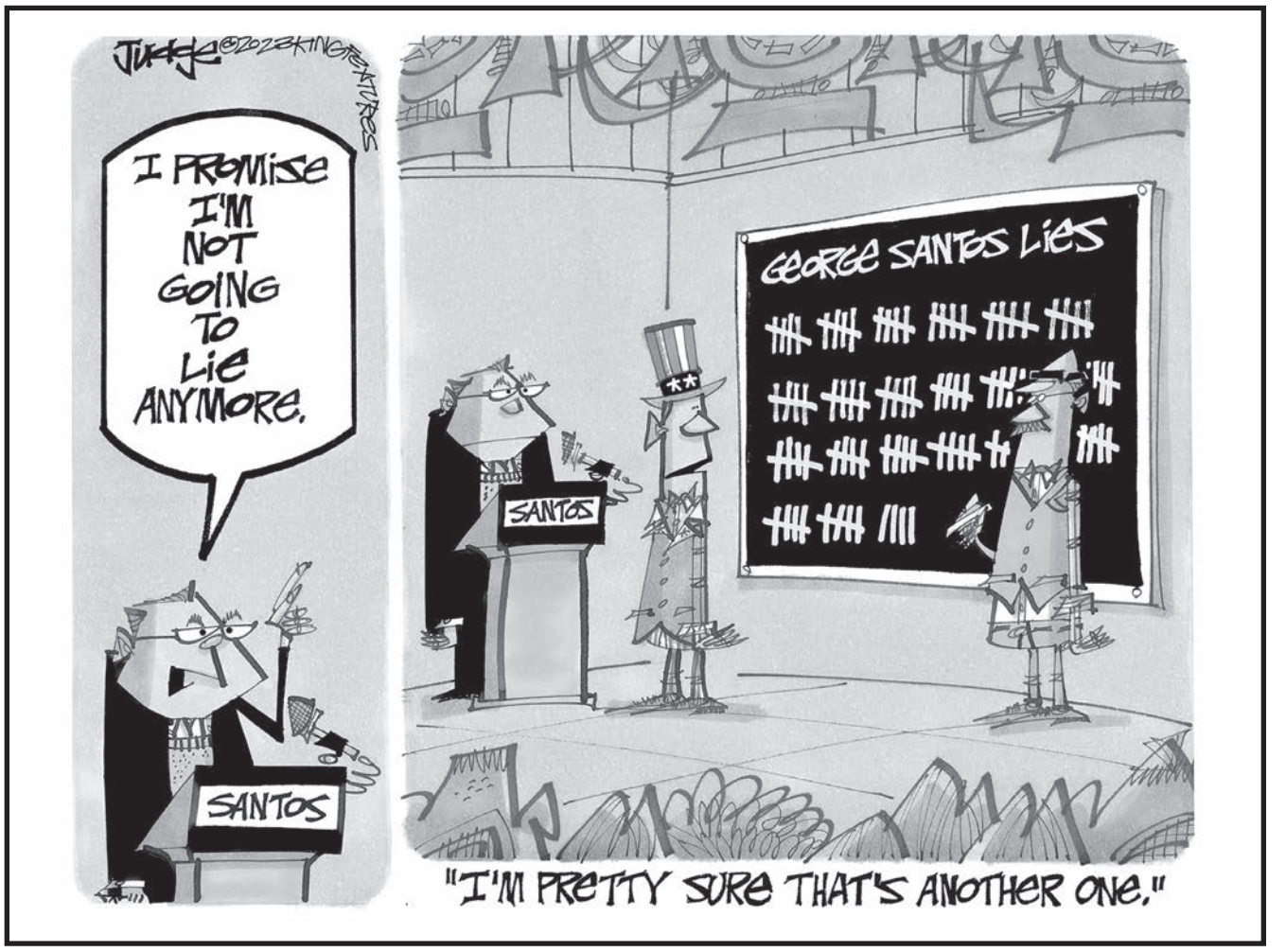

EDITORIAL

Nichols' death shows complexities of police violence—and urgency of reform

The fact that the five Memphis former police officers accused in the beating death of Black motorist Tyre Nichols are themselves Black could actually clarify the issue of police violence, which is more complicated than just a few bigoted white cops. It highlights that policing in America is in desperate need of reform that addresses more than just the reality of systemic racism in the ranks.

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which passed the House in 2021 but failed in the Senate, would limit police immunity, require more stringent record-keeping, ban chokeholds and institute other reforms nationally to curb these tragedies. It's time to revisit that legislation.

Nichols, 29, was stopped for reckless driving on Jan. 7. Several horrific videos show him on the ground even as officers yell at him to get down and spray him with pepper spray. Nichols then flees. Officers apprehended him a short time later on a street corner, where they can be seen pummeling him repeatedly with fists and a baton. He appears to offer no resistance.

He would die in a hospital three days later. The five fired officers face multiple felony charges including second-degree murder.

While the fact that all parties involved were Black is a departure from the more common white cop/Black victim dynamic in suspect deaths, the tragedy otherwise looks familiar: Police responding to what appears to be a minor provocation (or none) with overwhelming and sustained violence apparently driven by anger. A New York Times analysis of the video concluded that the officers barked 71 separate commands at Nichols during a 13-minute period, including contradictory commands and orders he couldn't have physically followed, like telling him to get on the ground when he already was, or telling him to reposition himself when they were physically preventing him from moving. Failure to comply then became grounds for the use of more force.

As with George Floyd's 2020 murder by Minneapolis police officers, it appears Nichols wasn't given immediate medical attention after the encounter. Nichols, like Floyd, could be heard calling out for his mother as officers tortured him.

To assume that Nichols' race couldn't have been a factor in the Black officers' brutality toward him ignores the complexities of police racism, which is as much institutional as it is personal. The conversation about police reform must focus not just on changing the attitudes of individual officers but on police culture itself. And that begins with the kinds of rules that the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act would impose around the country.

It's likely that some of the conservative resistance to police reform in the past has been grounded in the assumption that it's just a veiled attack on white officers. If this latest tragedy helps open some eyes to the more complicated reality, it could open the door to real reform.

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We've seen enough of America's brutal policing

By MICHELLE DEAL-ZIMMERMAN
The Baltimore Sun

Michelle Deal-Zimmerman is senior content editor for features and an advisory member of The Sun's Editorial Board.

At 7:01 p.m. Friday night I heard the breaking news alert on my phone that signaled the public release of the video showing five Memphis Police officers beating, restraining and ultimately killing 29-year-old Tyre Nichols.

At 7:02, I put on my headphones, turned up the music and blocked it all out.

I would not watch the video and again participate in the continued traumatization of the Black American psyche.

I've seen enough.

And I am tired of the same angry faces, the burning eyes of frustration, the violence of the voiceless, the desperation of a people who want only to be heard.

But instead, all we are is viewed. By those who watch on tiny screens and adjust the volume on the screams and the pleas. Who analyze the video quality and the alternate angles, searching for something—anything—that shows man's inhumanity in a better light.

Police violence against citizens should not be a spectator sport.

Dashcam and bodycam videos were supposed to make policing more accountable. But instead it seems to have made Black people more expendable.

Because no matter how many scenes of brutal terror wrought upon Black men and women in traffic stop after traffic stop, the video does not stop. It keeps on playing, moving from city to city on a nationwide tour that showcases the failures of policing everywhere.

White police. Latino police. Black police. It does not matter the color of the face if the uniform is blue. The blows come just as hard and furious.

But we don't have to watch every deadly performance. Because what else is it when police, knowing they are being recorded, still act in a manner that ultimately ends a life?

Memphis Police knew they had a blockbuster of brutality. An hour of footage showing the monstrous side of its men in blue. The department's leadership hyped it with pregame videos of its own, with Police Chief Cerelyn Davis calling it "heinous" and then on TV, likening it to the video that showed the beating of Rodney King in 1991.

An instant hit. For some.

"I've already seen how he looks. I already know what they did to him. I don't need to see how they did it. And so I can't watch the video," said RowVaughn Wells, Nichols' mother, in an interview with The Washington Post.

Understandably, Wells said she managed mere seconds before leaving the room. For the rest of us, what is our obligation to bear witness—to watch the unwatchable?

Eric Garner. George Floyd. Philando Castile. Alton Sterling. Terence Crutcher. Ahmaud Arbery. Breonna Taylor. Tamir Rice. I have seen them all and it is too many.

Black Americans have seen more than enough.

It is traumatizing to see yourself constantly in danger of dying at the hands of those who are supposed to protect and serve. Even a viral video that is not violent and shows only a Black man watering flowers before he is arrested by police, is still stressful to process and lands as a racial assault on black bodies everywhere.

Studies have shown that racism and the perception of racial discrimination cause significant mental health issues from anxiety to depression to PTSD.

"There is a collective experience that is felt. It is every Black person realizing that at any point in time, the stories that have become all too familiar could be their story. It is realizing that people in the Black community are dying unnecessarily," according to a report from the National Alliance on Mental Illness on "The Effects of Racial Trauma on Mental Health: Deaths Captured on TV and Media."

A study in 2018 found that Black people experienced days of poor mental health in the months following a police killing of an unarmed Black person in the state where they lived. There were no observed impacts on mental health for white respondents in the study.

It's not just mental health. The legacy of racism can be seen in the physical health of the Black community with higher rates of high blood pressure and heart disease. Sometimes just hearing about another video of police brutality can make my pulse to race.

So I will not be watching the tragic, painful and unnecessary death of another Black man at the hurting hands of those who should be helping.

While that is my choice, I hope that some of you will bear witness for Nichols, for his family and for all Black people in America who deserve to be treated humanely.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

CNMI mourns untimely passing of Edward Deleon Guerrero Pangelinan

By ARNOLD I. PALACIOS and DAVID M. APATANG
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Arnold I. Palacios and David M. Apatang are the governor and lieutenant governor respectively of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Our Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has lost a great friend and an architect of our great Commonwealth's political union with the United States of America. Governor Arnold Indalecio Palacios and Lt. Gov. David Mundo Apatang and the great people of the CNMI mourn the loss of the Honorable Edward Deleon Guerrero Pangelinan, a true patriot and son of the CNMI who dedicated his life to building a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that put into reality the dreams and hopes of our fathers and mothers.

Lt. Gov. Apatang and I, along with our families and friends in the Northern Mariana Islands and abroad, extend our most solemn condolences to the families of Mr. Pangelinan, most especially his wonderful wife, Dulce G. Pangelinan, and children: Michael, Joseph, Jenny-Ann, and Matthew, as they grieve their loss. We wish them God's strength during this time of sorrow.

Long before becoming a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States of America, Mr. Pangelinan, being the very first native son to earn a juris doctor degree, began his esteemed career as a public servant of the Northern Marianas. He put his ambition into words that defined the future of the people of the Northern Marianas. His tireless efforts were commendable and his actions are evident in our Covenant, a critical document in our political growth that laid out the roadmap to bring us to where we are today.

Mr. Pangelinan will always be remembered and honored as one of the pillars on which our CNMI was built. Being the CNMI's first resident representative to the U.S. House of Representatives, he became the first voice of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to be heard in the nation's government. His work put our Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the halls and chambers of the U.S. Congress.

We will forever keep in our hearts the great many things Mr. Pangelinan did and accomplished for our CNMI. He was a true Taotao Marianas and he would be tremendously missed by the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Add stupid to the list of charges against the Memphis cops who beat Tyre Nichols to death

By LEONARD GREENE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

My father was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee.

I've seen the good parts of the city: the popular March of ducks in the lobby of the famous Peabody Hotel, and the transformation of the rundown Lorraine Motel, where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, into a gleaming civil rights museum.

I've also seen the ugly side.

It was during a visit to Memphis years ago that my brother and I witnessed a disturbing act of police misconduct at a park in the shadow of that same Peabody Hotel.

The cops were harassing a homeless man, physically tormenting him for sleeping on a park bench.

This was years before cell phone cameras could be used to record brutality from a safe distance. So, we watched helplessly as the abuse took place, ashamed of ourselves for not intervening, alive and unharmed because we didn't.

I thought about that day when I watched the video of Memphis police officers beating a motorist, Tyre Nichols, to death after a bogus traffic stop.

I have relatives in Memphis, where my father was born and raised, who raise families, work in the community and drive along streets patrolled by abusive cops.

It could have easily been one of my relatives pulled over for no reason, pepper sprayed and pummeled by a bunch of inept police officers who couldn't even run a half-mile without whining and wheezing.

These bumbling, stumbling Keystone Cops couldn't even beat a man to death and violate his civil rights without stun-gunning and pepper spraying each other.

"Motherf---er made me Tase myself. "

"Damn, me too "

And don't give me any of that he shouldn't have resisted, or he shouldn't have run bulls—t. He didn't resist, and he only ran because he believed his life was in danger.

And he was right.

"I was hitting him with straight haymakers, dog," one of the officers bragged.

The five Black cops—Tadarrius Bean, Demetrius Haley, Emmitt Martin III, Desmond Mills Jr. and Justin Smith—who chased Nichols, a Black man, on Jan. 7 and beat him to death after an unnecessary traffic stop were fired and charged with second-degree murder.

That's far above anything that happened to the NYPD officers involved in the 2014 Staten Island chokehold death of Eric Garner, who was accused by cops of illegally selling cigarettes on the street.

None of the cops involved were criminally charged, and it took authorities five years to finally fire Daniel Pantaleo, the officer whose banned chokehold led to Garner's death.

In both cases, there were police involved who have yet to face a minute of scrutiny for standing around and letting a man die.

Would authorities have been so quick to fire and charge the Memphis cops if they had been white?

I don't know. And I don't care.

These punks need to be punished for their crimes, and if that means locking them in a cell where they can Tase and pepper spray each other for the next 50 years, that would be OK with me.

How do we help Monterey Park shooting survivors now left with horrific trauma?

By CELINE TIEN
Los Angeles Times

Celine Tien is the founder and chief executive of Flowly: relaxation training, a mobile app for people living with anxiety and chronic pain and illness. She is also a principal investigator on National Institutes of Health-backed clinical trials.

I was 10 minutes from the Monterey Park shooting on Lunar New Year's Eve, eating dim sum with 12 of my closest family members and friends, most Chinese. Monterey Park is where we have usually celebrated since my family and I moved to the U.S. from Asia, and the San Gabriel Valley was where we grew our village of gossiping Asian aunties who doted and cooked and cared for you like you were their own.

So on the morning of our new year, the shooting sent reverberations throughout my community. People heard of relatives who were killed and friends who ended up in the hospital. Some of our aunties danced regularly at the Star Ballroom Dance Studio the shooter targeted. All of us knew that for many in Monterey Park, the dance hall was not just a dance hall. It was a haven, a place where people went to gather, to connect, to remedy their anxieties and stress. Dancing there was their therapy.

As someone who grew up here and now works in mental health, I've been haunted by this question: How will this community wrestle with their trauma?

I know it will be hard for the survivors to receive and accept the help they need. Studies show that Asian American and Pacific Islanders are the least likely racial or ethnic group to seek mental health services, three times less likely to access mental health services when compared with their white counterparts. Just 8.6% of Asian Americans sought any type of mental health service or resources, one 2010 study found, compared with nearly 18% of the general population in the U.S.

The Asian American communities hit by recent mass shootings—in Monterey Park and in Half Moon Bay—face several barriers in getting the resources to cope. First, there is a cultural barrier: a lack of understanding about mental health in the AAPI community and a resistance to seeking help, stemming in part from the "model minority" myth that places exorbitant pressure on AAPI people to prove they are completely self-capable.

Second, there is a structural barrier: An estimated 30% of the AAPI population in the U.S. is not fluent in English (for Chinese Americans, it's more than 44%). Yet there is a significant lack of multilingual—and culturally competent—mental health services and providers in the healthcare system. And those rare providers who are multilingual have to endure extra work that can cause burnout, discouraging potential providers from entering or continuing this work.

The devastating impacts of these barriers expand beyond the recent mass shootings. As of 2020 there were 23.8 million Americans who identify as AAPI, the fastest-growing racial and ethnic group in the United States—increasing 72% between 2000 and 2015. And we are largely struggling with mental health. Suicide is the leading cause of death for Asian Americans between the ages of 15 and 24. That's not the case for any other racial or ethnic group in the U.S. in this age range.

The need for culturally competent, multilingual and accessible mental health services will only grow. Yet in my work developing digital tools for mental health, I've encountered little research examining and calling for improvements in AAPI mental health services. This leaves a lack of relevant training for providers.

This issue is just one concern in the larger conversation around the Monterey Park mass shooting. But it is real and raw for the people in our community today. I'm afraid many will carry their trauma, unaddressed and unacknowledged.

There is no simple solution, only a need for our communities—and those who control the mental health resources around us—to acknowledge people who lack access to services. More providers need improved training in culturally aware and trauma-informed care.

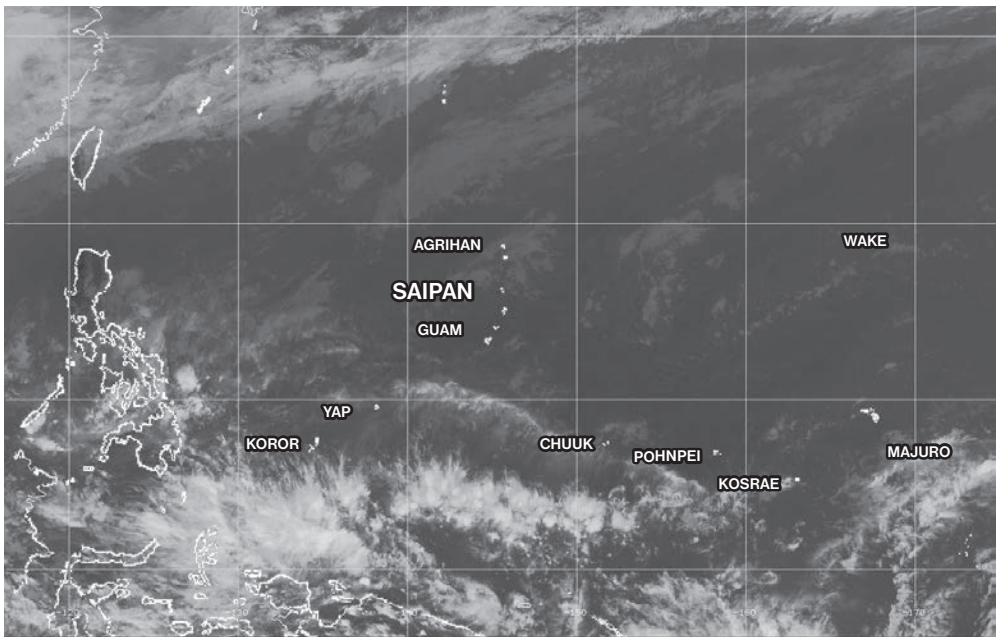
Lai Lai Ballroom & Studio in Alhambra—the second location the attacker targeted—reopened just days after the shooting so people could cope through a sense of normalcy and community. While dance may endure as a form of therapy for some, it is no longer an option for many. Star Ballroom remains closed. Grief, guilt, anxiety and sleeplessness will continue to fester for survivors. Many will need professional support. What happens for them now?

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
87º / 77º	87º / 77º	87º / 77º	87º / 77º	87º / 77º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:30 AM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Radar shows few showers across the region, with satellite imagery and scatterometer data showing partly cloudy skies and moderate to fresh winds. Buoys are reporting combined seas around 5 to 7 feet, with Ipan buoy occasionally reaching up to near 8 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	75° / 62°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	47° / 23°
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 65°
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 71°
London	Partly Cloudy	45° / 30°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	66° / 45°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	69° / 59°
Miami	Sunny	70° / 55°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	49° / 36°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	53° / 43°
Paris	Showers	43° / 34°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	53° / 42°
Rome	Rain	59° / 50°
Salem	Sunny	56° / 38°
San Francisco	Showers	54° / 42°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	48° / 28°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	55° / 41°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	51° / 39°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Tuesday	6:44 AM	6:17 PM
Wednesday	6:44 AM	6:17 PM
Thursday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Friday	6:43 AM	6:18 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:04 AM	6:43 PM
Tuesday	-	7:43 AM	7:31 PM
Wednesday	-	8:19 AM	8:19 PM
Thursday	-	8:53 AM	9:06 PM
Friday	-	9:28 AM	9:54 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
2:17 AM	Low Tide	-0.35
9:16 AM	High Tide	1.60
2:40 PM	Low Tide	0.96
7:33 PM	High Tide	1.65

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	3:50PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
TW9308	3:50AM	7:20AM	1, 4, 5, 7
OZ624	3:50PM	7:40PM	3, 6
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:20PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ623	9:00AM	2:20PM	3, 6
7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
TW9307	9:20PM	2:50AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

NMI gains $2.7M exposure value on Japan's 'Tabi Salad'

Japan TV travel show "Tabi Salad" featured the Marianas in two broadcasts in January 2023, bringing $2.7 million in ad exposure value to the western Pacific island destination. The show was filmed as part of a destination awareness media promotion organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority. MVA

Japan TV travel show "Tabi Salad" films at the Old Man by the Sea. MVA

The Marianas was recently featured on one of Japan's most popular and longest running television travel shows, "Tabi Salad," bringing the destination an estimated $2.7 million in ad exposure value.

The program, produced by Asahi Broadcasting Co., was filmed as part of a destination awareness media promotion organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority in December 2022 to help attract more Japanese visitors to the destination.

"The MVA has had a number of projects with Tabi Salad through the years, and we welcome this extraordinary coverage reaching across the country," said MVA acting managing director Judy C. Torres. "For all of the MVA's destination awareness media promotions, we negotiate a tangible product, either a broadcast show, print coverage, or online content. We are grateful for this collaboration with Asahi TV."

The broadcast highlighted the newly opened Crowne Resort Plaza Saipan in downtown Garapan. While on Saipan in December, the three-member film crew also covered Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Mariana Lighthouse, diving at Laulau Beach, Sabalu Market, Micro Beach, Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Sugar Dock, trekking to Bird Island Beach, a sunset beach barbecue, and more.

"Tabi Salad" introduces international and domestic destinations to its viewership each week. ***(MVA)***

Japan TV travel show "Tabi Salad" features the CNMI's diverse marine life. MVA

Dangerous rip currents until Tuesday afternoon

The public is being warned that there is a high risk of rip currents through Tuesday afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents are present in east-facing reefs of the Marianas. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

An east swell was expected to decrease slightly yesterday and allow the risk of rip currents to become moderate briefly. However, the east swell was expected to rebuild last night, causing the rip current risk to become high through Tuesday afternoon. The east swell is then expected to decrease again Tuesday evening.

The public is advised to stay out of the water along east facing reef lines. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. ***(PR)***

FOR SALE

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QTY.	DESCRIPTION
16	TOP LOAD WASHER 30 LB CAPACITY, COIN DROP
9	FRONT LOAD WASHER 30 LB CAPACITY , COIN DROP
4	FRONT LOAD WASHER 40 LB CAPACITY, COIN DROP
1	FRONT LOAD WASHER 60 LB CAPACITY, COIN DROP
4	STACK DRYER 20 LB. CAPACITY, LP GAS COIN DROP
7	STACK DRYER 30 LB. CAPACITY, LP COIN DROP

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NO RETURN, NO EXCHANGE POLICY

FOR DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT SMILE LAUNDRY AT (670) 234-7415, (670) 234-8733 OR (670) 287-0246

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Monday, January 31, 2021, Ramon B. Camacho dba Camacho Rental, is Mayor-Elect for Municipality of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster (CDBG-DR) Affordable Rental Housing Development Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Ramon B. Camacho is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR § 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

Dated this 6th day of February, 2023.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TWO EQUIPMENT STORAGE/RENTAL WAREHOUSE BUILDINGS
PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the construction of two (2) equipment storage/rental warehouse buildings at the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-001-23.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, local time, Friday, January 27, 2023.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: January 4, 2023

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Business

STATE OF THE UNION:

Biden sees economic glow, but Republicans see gloom

WASHINGTON (AP)—Going into Tuesday's State of the Union address, President Joe Biden sees a nation with its future aglow.

Republicans take a far bleaker view—that the country is beset by crushing debt and that Biden is largely responsible for inflation. And the GOP now holds a House majority intent on blocking the president.

The harder reality is that the United States is on a tight rope, trying to balance efforts to reduce inflation with the need to stay upright and avoid falling into a recession. That's with the seemingly inherent contradiction of the Federal Reserve's interest rate increases and the unemployment rate falling to a near 54-year low.

Based on past speeches, Biden believes the policies adopted under his watch can fill the U.S. with new factories and protect against climate change. Roads, bridges, sewer systems, ports and internet service would be improved. The middle class would be more financially secure. So would America's place in the global economy's hierarchy.

On Friday, the president said the proof was in the January employment report. It showed 517,000 jobs were added as the unemployment rate fell to 3.4%, making it "crystal clear" that his "chorus of critics" were wrong.

"Here's where we stand: The strongest job growth in history," Biden said. "Put simply, I would argue the Biden economic plan is working."

Republicans are pushing back. They blamed Biden's trillion-dollar plus spending for high inflation and surging gas and food prices. GOP lawmakers want to repeal his tax increases and additional money for the IRS. They oppose his forgiveness of student debt and blame him for the migrants seeking to enter the country at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Neither side captures the fullness of the actual state of the economy.

One group of experts can read the data and claim a recession is on the horizon. A different group can focus on a separate set of figures and see reason to rejoice. It's a disorienting moment.

Biden can celebrate the low jobless rate even as Republicans bemoan inflation that is still running dangerously hot.

"It's the best of times and the worst of times for the U.S. economy, to borrow a phrase," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. "The economy is full of contradictions as it struggles to get beyond the massive global shocks of the pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine."

Zandi said he expects the U.S. economy will "skirt" a recession this year, though many economists believe a downturn will come.

Gus Faucher, PNC Financial Services' chief economist, pegs the odds of a recession this year at 60%. But he said any downturn would be "mild" because "worker shortages will limit layoffs, consumer balance sheets are in great shape, the banking system is solid."

Most people in the U.S. assume the nation is already in a recession, even if they personally feel fine.

Only 24% of adults call the national economy good and 76% say conditions are poor, according to a poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. At the same time, 57% say their personal financial situation is good. That's unchanged since December, but it has eroded slightly since earlier last year when 62% felt positively about their finances.

The key force shaping the economy right now is the Fed, which has the mission of keeping prices stable and inflation at around 2%. Consumer prices jumped 6.5% last year.

G-7, Europe reach deal for price cap on Russian diesel

BRUSSELS (AP)—U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Friday that industrialized countries in the Group of Seven are imposing a price cap on refined Russian oil products such as diesel and kerosene, as part of a coalition that includes Australia and a tentative agreement from the European Union.

The cap follows similar price limits put on Russian oil exports, with the goal of reducing the financial resources Russian President Vladimir Putin has to wage the nearly year-long war in Ukraine.

"Today's agreement builds on the price cap on Russian crude oil exports that we set in December and helps advance our goals of limiting Russia's key revenue generator in funding its illegal war while promoting stable global energy markets," Yellen said in a statement.

On Friday, EU governments tentatively agreed to set a $100-per-barrel price cap on sales of Russian diesel to coincide with an EU embargo on the fuel. Diplomats representing the 27 EU governments set the cap on Russian diesel fuel, jet fuel and gasoline ahead of a ban taking effect Sunday. It aims to reduce Russia's income while keeping its diesel flowing to non-Western countries to avoid a global shortage that would send prices and inflation higher.

Details about the cap were provided by a G-7 statement and diplomats from three different EU member nations, who agreed to discuss the cap on the condition of anonymity.

The $100-per-barrel cap applies to Russian diesel and other fuels that sell for more than the crude oil used to make them. Officials agreed on a $45-per-barrel limit on Russian oil products that sell for less than the price of crude.

The deal follows a similar G-7 agreement to limit the price of Russian crude oil to $60 a barrel. All the price ceilings are enforced by a requirement for the world's largely Western-based shippers and insurers to abide by sanctions and handle oil products only priced at or below the limits.

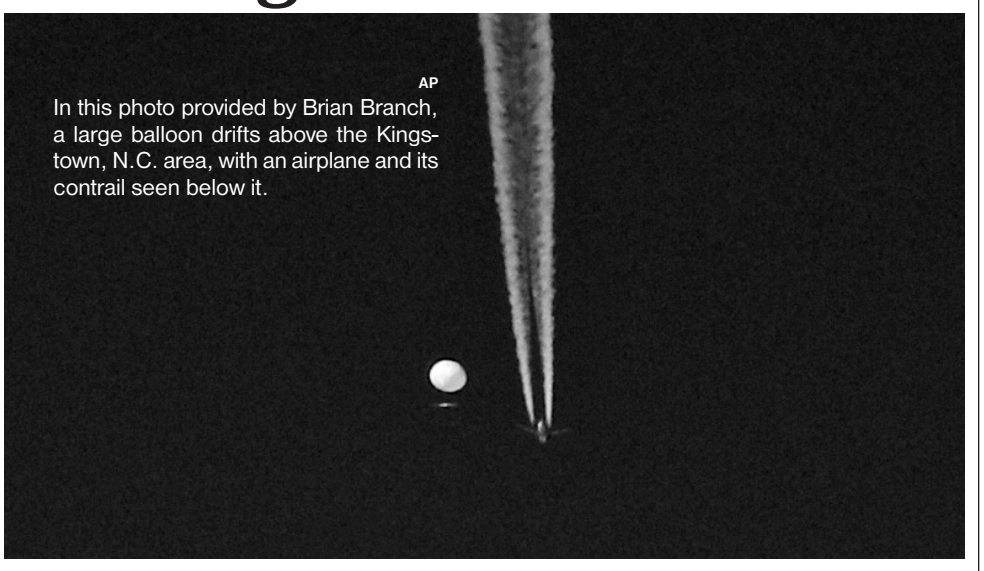
Russia has said it will not sell to countries obeying the oil cap, but because its oil is selling for less than $60 per barrel, it has kept flowing to the global market. The price caps encourage non-Western customers that have not banned Russian oil to press for discounts, while outright evasion — though possible — carries additional costs such as organizing off-the-books tankers.

The ambassadors of the 27 EU nations put forward the decision, and national governments have until early Saturday to react with a written objection. No changes to the deal were expected.

Europe has been steadily reducing its diesel supplies from Russia from around half of all imports. Diesel is key for the economy because it is used to power cars, trucks carrying goods, farm equipment and factory machinery. Prices have spiked since Russia invaded Ukraine on rebounding demand and limited refinery capacity in some places.

Nation

US downs Chinese balloon, drawing threat from China



AP

In this photo provided by Brian Branch, a large balloon drifts above the Kingstown, N.C. area, with an airplane and its contrail seen below it.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. military on Saturday shot down a suspected Chinese spy balloon off the Carolina coast after it traversed sensitive military sites across North America. China insisted the flyover was an accident involving a civilian aircraft and threatened repercussions.

President Joe Biden issued the order but had wanted the balloon downed even earlier, on Wednesday. He was advised that the best time for the operation would be when it was over water, U.S. officials said. Military officials determined that bringing it down over land from an altitude of 60,000 feet would pose an undue risk to people on the ground.

China responded that it reserved the right to "take further actions" and criticized the U.S. for "an obvious overreaction and a serious violation of international practice."

In its statement Sunday, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that "China will resolutely uphold the relevant company's legitimate rights and interests, and at the same time reserving the right to take further actions in response."

The presence of the balloon in the skies above the U.S. this week dealt a severe blow to already strained U.S.-Chinese relations that have been in a downward spiral for years. It prompted Secretary of State Antony Blinken to abruptly cancel a high-stakes Beijing trip aimed at easing tensions.

"They successfully took it down and I want to compliment our aviators who did it," Biden said after getting off Air Force One en route to Camp David.

The giant white orb was spotted Saturday morning over the Carolinas as it approached the Atlantic coast. About 2:39 p.m. EST, an F-22 fighter jet fired a missile at the balloon, puncturing it while it was about 6 nautical miles off the coast near Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, senior defense officials said.

The spectacle had Americans looking to the skies all week, wondering whether the mysterious balloon had floated over them.

ACROSS THE NATION

6th officer fired after beating death of Tyre Nichols

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—A sixth Memphis officer was fired Friday after an internal police investigation showed he violated multiple department policies in the violent arrest of Tyre Nichols, including rules surrounding the deployment of a stun gun, officials said. Preston Hemphill had been suspended as he was investigated for his role in the Jan. 7 arrest of Nichols, who died in a hospital three days later. Five Memphis officers have already been fired and charged with second-degree murder in Nichols' death. Nichols was beaten after police stopped him for what they said was a traffic violation. Video released after pressure from Nichols' family shows officers holding him down and repeatedly punching, kicking and striking him with a baton as he screamed for his mother.

Man arrested, but motive unknown in Dallas Zoo monkey theft

DALLAS (AP)—The arrest of a 24-year-old man accused of taking two monkeys from the Dallas Zoo has shed some light on a mysterious string of events there as police said Friday that they've also linked him to the escape of a small leopard and a gash in the fence of another monkey habitat. What's still unclear: What police believe led him to do it. Davion Irvin, who was arrested Thursday, has been charged with six counts of animal cruelty and two counts of burglary, police said. Irvin's arrest followed a sighting of him at another home for exotic animals, The Dallas World Aquarium, where an employee recognized him from news coverage of the missing monkeys.

Authorities: 2 arrested in California shooting that killed 6

VISALIA, Calif. (AP)—Two gang members were arrested early Friday, one after a gunbattle, in the January massacre of six people including a baby at a central California home associated with a rival gang, the Tulare County sheriff said. Sheriff Mike Boudreaux said Noah David Beard, 25, was taken into custody and Angel "Nanu" Uriarte, 35, was wounded in the shootout with federal agents and was undergoing surgery, but was stable and expected to survive. "I'm happy we were able to put these two men behind bars," the sheriff said. The suspects and members of the victims' family have a long history of gang violence but the motive for the shooting "is not exactly clear," Boudreaux said at a news conference at the sheriff's headquarters in Visalia.

Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 • Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702 | Website: www.NMIjudiciary.gov

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL I
Announcement # JVA23-010
On the Island of SAIPAN

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Chief Justice and under the direct supervision of the Chief Marshal in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Perform general court security duties, including providing safety and security during judicial proceedings, maintaining order in the courtroom and during prisoner processing, providing protection from harm and personal injury to assigned justices, judges, court personnel, clients, jurors and witnesses;
- Provide protection from damage and vandalism to the court facilities, equipment, and other related resources;
- Assist with all necessary inspection and screening of persons and items entering the court facilities, restricting from entry those that are prohibited within the court premises;
- Provide physical and electronic security monitoring of all assigned areas under the control of the Marshals Service Division;
- Provide Protective Service Detail (PSD) personal security for all justices and judges on official business outside the court premises;
- Assist in transporting and escorting prisoners and other detainees who are awaiting court appearance. This includes transporting prisoners to and from the Department of Corrections (or from other locations as instructed) and the courthouse; to and from the courthouse holding cells and the courtrooms;
- Assist in protecting and transporting jurors and other court personnel during jury trial and deliberation;
- Assist with court bailiff functions, community policing, community supervision, compliance checks;
- Assist in the preparation of reports of service and no-service, including submission of daily activity and incident reports;
- Provide the general public with direction and general information on all judicial service locations with the courthouse;
- Provides assistance to superiors and other law enforcement personnel, particularly in operations, dispatching information;
- Prepares official reports with clarity and completeness on reports submitted to supervisors during the duty shift;
- Coordinates incoming requests for service at the Marshals Service Division and dispatch personnel in an efficient manner which will serve the public;
- Ensure proper handling and disposition of all in-custody prisoners/detainees; provide security, enforcement of established rules and regulations and others, which are provided herein. This critical task requires Deputies to escort prisoners/defendants to hearings as directed;
- Assists in all phases of law enforcement operations, including conducting investigations related criminal cases and or complaints of alleged violation of law, rules, and regulations filed with the Judiciary;
- Serves summons subpoenas and other official documents;
- Examines files and secures evidence and records as required;
- Serves warrants for arrests, searches, and seizures as necessary;
- Possess skills necessary for the use of and care of firearms, and performs and enforces the CNMI Weapons Control
- Act and Federal Firearms Regulations. Applicant is required to pass either a CNMI Law Enforcement or Federal
- Firearms Certification course and meet the criteria for annual firearms qualification to carry firearms under the
- Marshals Service Division Firearms Standard Operating Procedures;
- Must meet the physical fitness and agility requirements testing standards approved by the Chief Marshal or designee;
- Attends and successfully completes all training courses as directed by the Chief Marshal, including but not limited to, any law enforcement officers training courses offered through the Northern Marianas College, local law enforcement and Federal law enforcement agencies;
- Assists the other Deputy Marshals in their duties; and
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must also satisfy a minimum of two (2) years of experience in law enforcement; or one-year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study.

Law Enforcement Academy Training preferred, but not required.

Successful candidates must complete and pass law enforcement training, including firearms qualification, during the probationary period.

Military experience may be considered; successful candidates with only military background must complete additional law enforcement training during the probationary period.

Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain records professionally, and uphold office policies. Must be proficient with the use of general office software including but not limited to Microsoft Word and Excel.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care
professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.) Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the job qualification requirements if the applicant can show that foreign education is comparable to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence when applying for Judiciary jobs. Education received in foreign colleges or universities will be considered if the candidate submits an evaluation of the coursework from: (a) an accredited U.S. college or university; or (b) a private professional organization specializing in interpretation of foreign educational credentials

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. The salary range will be $22,000 - $25,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS PERSONS Application forms are available at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices at Kotten Tinian in Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818
Cell. (670) 783-8592
hr.judiciary@NMIjudiciary.gov

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.nmijudiciary.gov

The Judiciary reserves the right to rescind or cancel this JVA at any time without notice.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

[1]The following organizations evaluate foreign educational credentials for employment and other purposes. All operate on a fee based on the extent of the education to be evaluated; applicants shall bear the cost of evaluation.
(a) Credentials Evaluation Service P.O. Box 24679 Los Angeles, CA 90024
(b) Education Equivalency Evaluation World Education Services P.O. Box 745 Old Chelsea Station New York, NY 10011
(c) Education Credential Evaluators, Inc. P.O. Box 17499 Milwaukee, WI 53217
(d) International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. 914 Pickett Lane Newark, DE 19711
(e) Foundation for International Services, Inc. P.O. Box 230278 Portland, OR 97223.
While the Judiciary offer these addresses as information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation of foreign education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

PROBATION OFFICER I
Announcement # JVA23-011
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position works under the direct supervision of the Chief Probation Officer or his/her designee in the Office of Adult Probation on Saipan, and may be detailed to Rota or Tinian. The incumbent makes a positive difference in the lives of criminal and traffic probationers, providing them with the accountability, skills, and resources to avoid further brushes with the law. He or she provides investigation, monitoring and/or supervising various levels and types of probationers' court ordered probation; and ensure compliance with the court's conditions of the probationers' supervised release and community control, working in close coordination with the justice system.

The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs all assigned duties relating to court-probation cases under probation administration and operation assignment;
- Interacts with the court and law enforcement officials, healthcare providers, the probationer's employers and/or relation, and other pertinent agencies;
- Appears, reports and articulates the probationer's' status at scheduled court hearings;
- Investigates and assesses the probationer's' personal history and background upon court's order;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to the probationer's case from resource areas such as the probationer's' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, and etc.;
- Recommends treatment and rehabilitation plans;
- Monitors the probationers placed on probation; and provides updates to the court on their probationary status;
- Interviews probationers according to approved techniques in order to determine and clarify probationers' problems, and consults with the supervisor as necessary to suggest constructive methods for dealing with such problems;
- Assists Probation-Crime Victims with their impact statement, victims' rights, restitution, and other needed services;
- Contacts public and private community agencies to secure their aid in solving probationers' problems and maintains a continuing and ongoing relationships with the agencies as necessary;
- Documents facts and testifies in court with respect to the probationer's activities, behavior, and quality of adjustment while under supervision;
- Reports investigative findings to the court and prepares recommendations for the proper case disposition;
- Assists in the conduct of procedure in the courtroom during court sessions;
- Periodically interviews probationers to determine effectiveness of probation mandates, supervision, counseling, etc.;
- Refers probationers to Community Agencies for assistance in rehabilitation;
- Provides periodic contact with collateral sources for information to evaluate or verify probationers' current adjustment;
- Enforces court orders involving probation cases;
- Recommends revocation and/or modification of probation when necessary;
- Possess skills necessary for the use of and care of firearms, and performs and enforces the CNMI
- Weapons Control Act and Federal Firearms Regulations. Applicant is required to pass either aCNMI Law Enforcement or Federal Firearms Certification course and meet the criteria for annual firearms qualification to carry firearms under the Marshals Service Division Firearms StandardOperating Procedures;
- Follows court policies for monitoring payments ordered by the court. The payments to be monitored include, but are not limited to, restitution, fine, child supports, and etc.;
- Plans office activities, conferences, and field visits in connection with investigation and supervision functions;
- Maintains accurate, neat, legible and up-to-date case records in the prescribed form;
- Attends public relations activities such as community group meetings, conference, panel discussions, and other related forums; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and satisfy one of the following:

(1) Associates degree or a Bachelors degree from a nationally accredited college in related field,plus at least six months experience as a law enforcement officer; or (2) any suitable combination of work experience and training of at least six years.

Successful candidates must complete and pass law enforcement training, including firearms qualification, during the probationary period.

Military experience may be considered; successful candidates with only military background must complete additional law enforcement training during the probationary period.

Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain records professionally, and uphold office policies. Must be proficient with the use of general office software including but not limited to Microsoft Word and Excel.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.)

Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the job qualification requirements if the applicant can show that foreign education is comparable to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence when applying for Judiciary jobs. Education received in foreign colleges or universities will be considered if the candidate submits an evaluation of the coursework from: (a) an accredited U.S. college or university; or (b) a private professional organization specializing in interpretation of foreign educational credentials

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position serves under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be $24,000 - $26,400 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS PERSONS Application forms are available at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices at Kotten Tinian in Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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Health

MAYO CLINIC MINUTE

Relationship between food and disease stronger than you think

By DEEDEE STIEPAN
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

The phrase "you are what you eat" is commonly used in conversations about health and the connection between food and the body. Eating an unhealthy diet can have serious consequences and can increase someone's risk of dying from heart disease, stroke and Type 2 diabetes.

In this Mayo Clinic Minute, Dr. Stephen Kopecky, a preventive cardiologist at Mayo Clinic, discusses the relationship between food and disease.

Things like smoking and genetics put us at risk for developing different diseases, but neither are the biggest risk factor.

"Nutrition is now the No. 1 cause of early death, and early disease in our country and the world," says Dr. Kopecky.

Dr. Kopecky says having genes for disease will increase your risk by 30% to 40%, but having a bad lifestyle for disease will increase your risk by 300% to 400%.

"About 57% of the calories we consume every day in this country are ultraprocessed foods," says Dr. Kopecky.

While ultraprocessed foods tend to be convenient and cost-effective, they are inflammatory and can cause a host of health issues over time.

"It bothers our tissues. It bothers our heart. It bothers our arteries, our brains, our pancreas, our liver and our lungs. And that leads to disease," says Dr. Kopecky. "It could be in the brain with Alzheimer's, the heart with coronary artery disease, or cancers elsewhere."

The good news is it's never too late to change your eating habits, and no change is too small.

"It's been shown if you take one bite of say a processed meat or ultraprocessed food, replace that with some unprocessed food or a healthier choice—you know vegetables and black beans—after a year or two, that will actually lower your risk of heart attack and stroke."

Of the four levels of food processing, the most processed are termed ultraprocessed foods. These foods have many added ingredients, such as sugar; salt; fat; and artificial colors, preservatives or stabilizers. The ingredient list sometimes has words that sound like chemicals. Examples are obvious foods like soft drinks, hot dogs, cold cuts, fast food, packaged snacks and cookies, but can also include canned baked beans, low-fat fruit yogurt, packaged bread, ready-made pasta sauces and breakfast cereals.

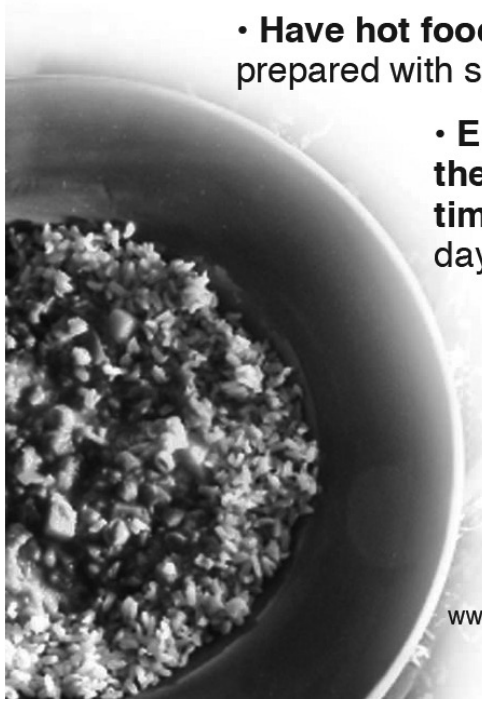
Healthy Living

Food wisdom

The ancient Indian science Ayurveda teaches that a healthy digestive system is as important as good nutrients.

For good digestion

- **Eat in a quiet,** relaxed place; do not read, work or watch TV
- **Have hot food,** freshly prepared with spices
- **Eat about the same time** each day
- **Make lunch** your main meal



Source: www.ayurveda.nl, TNS Photo Service

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†JUAN LITULUMAR SOMOL

August 29, 1958 – February 1, 2023
of Kagman was called to rest at the age of 64 years old.

He now joins his:

Parents:	†Jesus Olopai Somol
	†Gregoria Matagolai
Sister:	†Aurora Litulumar Manglona
Brother:	†Jesus Litulumar Somol

Juan's love and memories will live on in the hearts of his:
Wife: Juana Oronigo Somol
Children and their Spouses (grandchildren):
Pamela and Erick Marino (Chrystal Sarah, Alexandria Jean, and Jonathan David)
Lucretia and Presciardo Camacho (BryannaLynn, Leah, Salavatore, Pressel, Fchifitto, Alexander John, Kalina, Jorecia, Elsielynne, Elijah, and Elliot)
Nenita and Fred Takada (Katrina, Timothy, Jarrae, and Rizanah)
Brie'Anna and Kui Damien (Vinalynn Jewel, Rihanna, Juan Kui, and Kazel)
Shirlynna and Roel Wabol (Elana, Janeah, and Maximus)
Brian and Michelle Somol (Nicole)
Gregoria and Titu Ahmed

Sister and Nephews:
Leonisa and Donatus Ramangmou (Jesus Martin Somol, Marvin Joy L. Somol, Donatus Jr. Somol, and Jonessa Benaventa)

Viewing and Last Respects will be held from 9 am to 10 am on February 11, 2023, at Victory Chapel in Chalan Piao across from Hopwood Middle School soccer field, followed by a memorial service from 10 am to 11 am.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

FROM THE FAMILY

Life & Style

Hasty Pudding celebrates Coolidge as its Woman of the Year

AP

Harvard's Hasty Pudding Theatricals Woman of the Year Jennifer Coolidge, center, rides in a parade in her honor, Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, in Cambridge, Mass.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Dressed up as a dolphin and forced to give someone a lightning-fast makeover, "The White Lotus" actress Jennifer Coolidge was roasted Saturday before being honored as the 2023 Woman of the Year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals.

As the oldest theatrical organization in the nation and one of the oldest in the world, since 1951, Hasty Pudding Theatricals has bestowed this award annually on women "who have made lasting and impressive contributions to the world of entertainment."

Coolidge, who saw a career resurgence following her Emmy-winning turn as Tanya McQuoid-Hunt in the acclaimed HBO series "The White Lotus," headlined a parade through the streets of Cambridge Saturday afternoon. Dressed in a leopard print coat and donning a fluffy pink hat, she waved to the crowd that had come out despite unusually frigid temperatures.

Coolidge, who also played Stifler's sultry mom in the film "American Pie" and sage manicurist Paulette in the "Legally Blonde" movies, grew up in the Boston area. Her other film credits include roles in "Best In Show," "A Mighty Wind" and "Shotgun Wedding," and she has appeared in multiple television shows, including "Seinfeld," "2 Broke Girls" and "Nip/Tuck."

"It's been very fun. I'm really having a blast," said Coolidge before she was presented with her Pudding Pot award. "I got to meet all these young students who are so much smarter than me."

Coolidge later got emotional, recalling how her late father who went to Harvard would have loved to have witnessed this moment.

"I've been so blown away that this experience is happening. I never saw it coming. It blows away any sort of movie or television show I have ever done," she said. "Seriously, my dad went here. I wish he was here. His brothers went here and everything so it's a big deal."

Producers roasted Coolidge with several zingers about her career, including at one point suggesting they wondered whether she was chosen only after Reese Witherspoon dropped out. They went on to poke fun at her lack of serious roles and noted how she left Boston for New York where she made a splash "as an incompetent cocktail waitress."

Police: Bodies are those of 3 rappers missing nearly 2 weeks

HIGHLAND PARK, Mich. (AP)—Three bodies found in a vacant Detroit-area apartment building have been identified as those of three aspiring rappers who went missing nearly two weeks ago, police said Friday.

Michigan State Police said Friday afternoon on Twitter that investigators identified the bodies as those of Armani Kelly, 27, of Oscoda; Montoya Givens, 31, of Detroit; and Dante Wicker, 31, of Melvindale.

"We offer our condolences to their family and friends," police said.

The Michigan men were supposed to perform at a party at Lounge 31 in Detroit on Jan. 21, but they vanished after that appearance was canceled. Their bodies were found Thursday in the basement of an abandoned, rat-infested apartment building in Highland Park, near Detroit.

Earlier Friday, state police said the Wayne County Medical Examiners Office would conduct autopsies on the bodies. Lt. Mike Shaw said it could take up to 48 hours for autopsy results to be released because the bodies were found in "extreme cold" conditions.

Kelly, Givens and Wicker met while in prison, and Kelly and Givens were on parole at the time of their disappearance, according to the state corrections department.

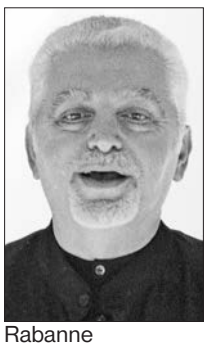
Lauded rebel fashion designer Paco Rabanne dies at age 88

PARIS (AP)—Paco Rabanne, the Spanish-born designer known for perfumes sold worldwide but who made his name with metallic space-age fashions that put a bold, new edge on catwalks, has died, the group that owns his fashion house announced Friday.

"The House of Paco Rabanne wishes to honor our visionary designer and founder who passed away today at the age of 88. Among the most seminal fashion figures of the 20th century, his legacy will remain," the statement from beauty and fashion company Puig said.

The newspaper Le Telegramme quoted the mayor of Vannes, David Robo, as saying that Rabanne died at his home in the Brittany region town of Portsall.

Rabanne's fashion house shows its collections in Paris and is scheduled to unveil the brand's latest ready-to-wear designs during the upcoming Feb. 27-March 3 fashion week.



Rabanne

Rabanne was known as a rebel designer in a career that blossomed with his collaboration with the family-owned Puig, a Spanish company that now also owns other design houses, including Nina Ricci, Jean Paul Gaultier, Carolina Herrera and Dries Van Noten. The company also owns the fragrance brands Byredo and Penhaligon's.

"Paco Rabanne made transgression magnetic. Who else could induce fashionable Parisian women (to) clamor for dresses made of plastic and metal? Who but Paco Rabanne could imagine a fragrance called Calandre—the word means 'automobile grill,' you know—and turn it into an icon of modern femininity?" the group's statement said.

Calandre perfume was launched in 1969, the first product by Puig in Spain, France and the United States, according to the company.

Born Francisco Rabaneda y Cuervo in 1934, the future designer fled the Spanish Basque country at age 5 during the Spanish Civil War and took the name of Paco Rabanne.

He studied architecture at Paris' Beaux Arts Academie before moving to couture, following in the steps of his mother, a couturier in Spain. He said she was jailed at one point for being dressed in a "scandalous" fashion.

Rabanne sold accessories to well-known designers before launching his own collection.

Dad must endure entitled teen's frequent tantrums

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing on behalf of my partner of more than 10 years. He has three daughters ages 23, 20 and 16. While he's close to two of them, his youngest distances herself when she doesn't get what she wants or disagrees with his point of view on something.

Eight months ago, she stopped talking to him because he badmouthed a boy band she likes. He essentially said they weren't worth the money when she asked him to buy her a ticket to their concert. He was going to appease her, but her reaction was so strong, she didn't give him a chance to let her know he was going to buy the ticket anyway.

Her mother doesn't encourage the relationship or support the importance of her having her father in her life or regular visitation, although it's court-ordered. He tried making contact with her several times when this last episode happened, but she ignored his calls and messages. Now that her birthday is coming up, however, she had her older sister send her wish list to him via a text message. Should he buy gifts for a child who has ignored him for the better part of a year?

GIFTS OR NO GIFTS

DEAR G.O.N.G.: If your partner's daughter wants something from Dad for her birthday, she should ask him directly and not telegraph the message through her sister. Your partner should do what he wants to do about her behavior. You and I know how we would handle this, but we are not him and we are not emotionally involved. Stay out of the line of fire.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: With no warning, my mother-in-law packed up and left my father-in-law. From what she tells me, he was verbally and emotionally abusive, and all-around controlling. My father-in-law is remarrying. He met his fiancee shortly after my MIL left.

I don't think I mind that he's getting remarried, but I do mind that no one has told my husband's mother. FIL won't tell her, and my husband won't either. She has said she "doesn't want to know anything" that's going on with my FIL. Not only does she not know, but neither does my husband's brother. My brother-in-law despises his father.

My husband's extended family will be attending the wedding. I have immense guilt about going. I feel like I'm betraying my MIL, with whom I have a good relationship. My husband wants me to attend because he needs the support. If I had it my way, I wouldn't go. I've never had a great relationship with my FIL, and he doesn't appear to have changed, even though he's with someone new. Any advice?

IN A TOUGH SPOT IN IOWA

DEAR TOUGH SPOT: Your mother-in-law made clear that she doesn't want to know what's going on with your father-in-law, so keep your mouth shut and don't become the town crier. Because your husband says he needs your support on that occasion, go with him and offer "good wishes" to the happy couple. (From what you have written, they are going to need them.) When your husband's mother finds out about the marriage—and, of course, she will—remind her that she told you she didn't want to be kept informed, so you respected her wishes.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

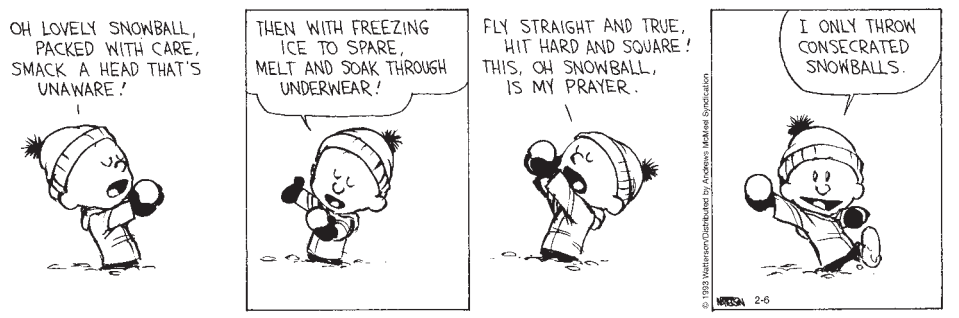
DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

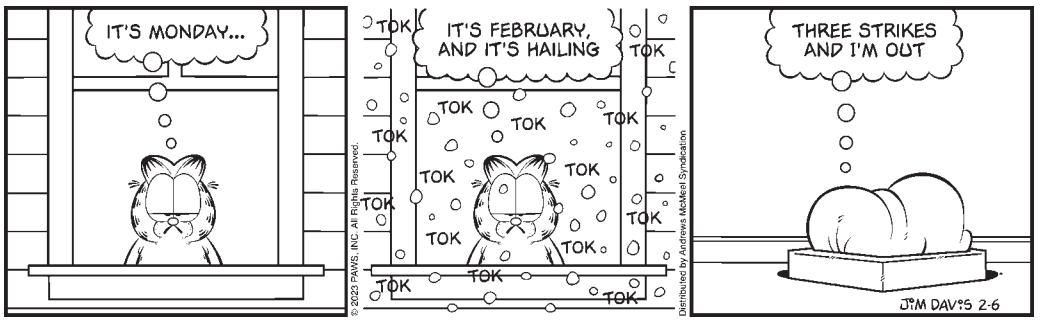
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OH LOVELY SNOWBALL, PACKED WITH CARE, SMACK A HEAD THAT'S UNAWARE!
THEN WITH FREEZING ICE TO SPARE, MELT AND SOAK THROUGH UNDERWEAR!
FLY STRAIGHT AND TRUE, HIT HARD AND SQUARE! THIS, OH SNOWBALL, IS MY PRAYER.
I ONLY THROW CONSECRATED SNOWBALLS.
© 1993 Watterson/Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
WATTERSON 2-6

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


IT'S MONDAY...
IT'S FEBRUARY, AND IT'S HAILING
TOK
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Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
THREE STRIKES AND I'M OUT
JIM DAVIS 2-6

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OOH! LOOK AT THIS!
WHAT?
AN OLD JUKEBOX FOR SALE! IT PLAYS 45s!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED ONE!
IMAGINE THE TIME AND MONEY I COULD WASTE KEEPING IT OPERATING!
OH. I'M IMAGINING.
©2023 Andrews McMeel
www.gocomics.com
2-6

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Skyline concealer
4 Rounded roofs
9 Buddy
12 "Hail, Caesar!"
13 Point of view
14 "Alley —"
15 Hidden danger
17 Verse by Pablo Neruda
18 LAX info
19 Buffalo coin
21 Borrower
24 Scurry
25 Epoch
26 Petty peeve
28 Like Santa's laundry
31 Tolkien creatures
33 Raw mineral
35 Heal
36 Detox center
38 Business mag
40 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
41 Boxing stats
43 Sadat's predecessor
45 One-celled creature
47 Yucatan "Bravo!"
48 Squabble
49 Drink with tapioca pearls
54 Rage
55 Paris school
56 Rainbow
57 Costa — Sol
58 Hinder
59 Ballot markings

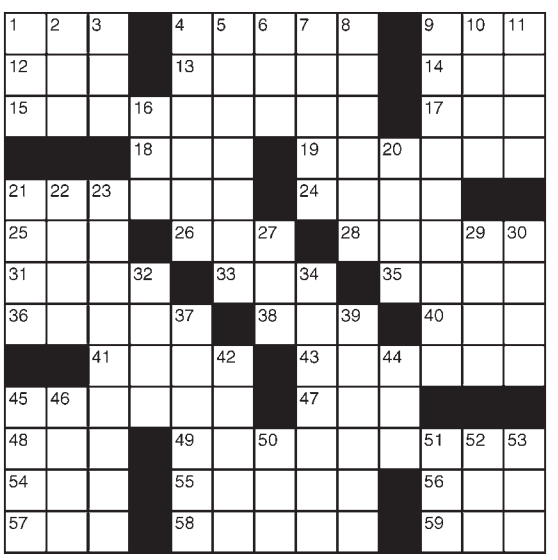
DOWN

1 "Terrif!"
2 Ab — (from the start)
3 Earth (Pref.)
4 Ohio city
5 Toronto's province
6 Ball club VIP
7 Serengeti grazer
8 Old photo tints
9 Trips for authors
10 Took a bike, say
11 Autobahn auto
16 Wager
20 Gator's kin
21 Woodland grazer
22 Sea eagle
23 Terry-cloth item
27 Part of TNT
29 Genealogy chart
30 Calendar span
32 Rice wine
34 Elevate
37 Rose and fell on the sea
39 Phone user
42 Chef's creation
44 Observe
45 Saharan
46 "Encore!"
50 Droid
51 Levy
52 Before
53 Apt. coolers

Solution time: 26 mins.

S	A	M		A	M	S		C	O	R	N	Y
P	R	E		R	O	T		I	R	I	S	E
R	U	T		C	H	I	N	A	T	O	W	N
A	B	E		S	A	R	O	O				
T	A	D	A		I	S	R		A	C	A	I
			F	D	R		M	O	T	O	W	N
Y	A	H	O	O				R	A	M	E	N
U	P	T	O	W	N		F	O	R			
L	O	S	T		E	R	E		I	R	A	Q
			A	X	I	N	G		E	M	U	
A	L	L	E	N	T	O	W	N		H	O	I
F	E	A	S	T		T	A	U		A	R	T
T	I	T	L	E		S	Y	S		B	E	E

Last Friday's Answer 01/30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rick Astley, 57; Axl Rose, 61; Kathy Najimy, 66; Tom Brokaw, 83.

Happy Birthday: Don't feel pressured to make a move or to change. Give yourself some room to breathe and consider the pros and cons before you decide what's best for you. You have more time than you think. Once you feel comfortable and confident that you are making the right decision, it will be easy to speed up the process and complete your journey. Your numbers are 7, 15, 23, 28, 30, 38, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't slow down or share too much information with individuals who are eager to take credit for what you achieve. Anger will stand between you and victory, but putting your energy where it counts will improve your opportunities. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't show surprise if someone lets you down. Go about your business, do your own thing and learn from the experience. An intelligent approach to conversations, differences and decisions will keep you safe and in control. Give others the benefit of the doubt. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Keep secrets; if you share sensitive information, ridicule will follow. Look for an opportunity to do something that will make a difference to you or someone you love, but don't let anyone take you for granted. Dishonesty will create despair. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Look for a unique way to use your skills and market your offer. Keeping up with what's trending will help you carve out opportunities in a dog-eat-dog world. Your insight and efforts will encourage others to help. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't wait for people or proposals to come your way; if you want something, set a course that will embrace new beginnings. Doing your part to make opportunities appear will boost your confidence and motivate you to do more. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll tune in to situations that are taxing for a friend or relative if you are observant. A kind word will make a difference and encourage others to open up. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Challenge yourself. Sign up for an event, race or activity that calls for discipline, courage and skills you have honed. Test your ability to come out on top. What you learn from these lessons will ground you and broaden your awareness. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Put together a to-do list, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results. Don't let what others do disrupt your day. Find a unique way to put your chores behind you and spend time with someone you love. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Broaden your outlook and attend events that offer something new and exciting. Learn about different cultures, and mix and mingle with people who can give you a different perspective on life, love and happiness. Embrace change, but don't jeopardize your health or well-being. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You may know what you want, but it will be challenging to move forward unless a budget is in place. Approaching someone who can contribute to your plans will inspire you to make your dreams come true. Don't overspend to impress. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Count on others to prop you up, but don't expect anyone to do the work for you. Complete your plans and take credit for your achievements. Do what someone expects of you at home to keep the peace, regardless of how others react. 3 stars

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Keep your secrets to yourself. Don't put on a display that will give others the upper hand. Know your physical limitations, and don't step outside of your comfort zone when asked to take on a task that might lead to injury, insult or illness. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, helpful and proactive. You are demonstrative and original.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7			6	9			1	2
8			4	7	5			
		6		8			5	4
5	4		9	3		1		8
1		8		5				9
3	6		8				4	
4	7				9	2		1
2		1				6		3
	9		1				7	

Difficulty: ★ 2-6

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

5	2	6	1	4	8	9	7	3
8	4	7	5	9	3	1	2	6
9	1	3	6	2	7	8	4	5
3	9	8	2	6	5	4	1	7
2	6	1	4	7	9	5	3	8
7	5	4	3	8	1	6	9	2
6	8	2	7	1	4	3	5	9
4	7	5	9	3	6	2	8	1
1	3	9	8	5	2	7	6	4

Difficulty: ★★★★ 2-3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

IN A NEWSROOM **Solution: 4 letters**

V	O	O	I	D	E	A	P	R	O	D	U	C	E	R
O	I	P	I	L	I	U	W	E	B	S	I	T	E	E
I	D	D	T	D	B	D	C	R	L	E	Y	M	N	G
C	U	I	E	L	A	I	I	A	I	P	E	I	E	A
E	T	M	I	O	F	R	T	R	E	T	L	M	E	N
Y	S	C	V	F	Ⓒ	Ⓘ	Ⓣ	Ⓨ	E	N	E	I	R	A
G	B	L	O	G	G	E	R	O	O	C	N	C	C	M
O	R	I	M	I	L	E	R	K	O	T	T	R	S	N
L	O	V	D	B	C	O	R	M	E	S	K	O	O	B
O	A	E	A	O	L	O	P	R	E	G	A	P	R	R
N	D	C	R	O	W	U	N	M	T	R	A	H	C	O
H	C	D	G	M	T	E	F	A	C	T	S	O	D	H
C	A	I	A	E	T	S	S	P	O	R	T	N	A	C
E	S	E	R	E	P	A	P	S	W	E	N	E	E	N
T	T	S	I	N	M	U	L	O	C	A	M	E	R	A

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Last Friday's Answer: Overnight

The NEW **Volume 70** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

LeBron James moves 36 points away from breaking NBA record

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—LeBron James moved 36 points away from breaking the NBA career scoring record in the Los Angeles Lakers' 131-126 loss to New Orleans on Saturday night that ended the Pelicans' losing streak at 10 games.

James had 27 points to go with nine rebounds and six assists as he continued to close in on Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's record total of 38,387 points.

Brandon Ingram scored 35 points for the Pelicans.

CJ McCollum had 23 points, highlighted by a late 3 to help New Orleans close out the final 3:14 on a 9-5 run that kept the Lakers at bay.

Anthony Davis had 34 points and 14 rebounds for the Lakers.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (6) battles for a rebound under the basket with forward Anthony Davis (3) and New Orleans Pelicans center Jonas Valanciunas in the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023.

NETS 125, WIZARDS 123

NEW YORK (AP)—Cam Thomas scored a career-high 44 points off the bench and short-handed Brooklyn overcame a 23-point deficit to beat Washington.

Edmond Sumner also set a personal best with 29 points. Brooklyn guard Kyrie Irving was out with what the team said was right calf soreness a day after he told the Nets he wants to be traded.

The Nets, who also played without Kevin Durant (right knee MCL sprain), T.J. Warren (left shin contusion) and Ben Simmons (left knee soreness), also lost Seth Curry (left adductor) and Markieff Morris (sore left knee) in the game.

Kristaps Porzingis led the Wizards with 38 points.

BUCKS 123, HEAT 115

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo had a triple-double with 35 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists and Milwaukee beat short-handed Miami for its seventh straight victory.

Jimmy Butler scored 32 points and Tyler Herro added 24 for the Heat, who had just nine available players. Notable injured Miami players included Kyle Lowry (sore left knee) and Victor Oladipo (sprained right ankle).

Antetokounmpo had his third triple-double of the season and 32nd of his career. The 11 assists matched his season high.

Antetokounmpo's latest triple-double came two nights after he scored 54 points in a 106-105 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers. During the Bucks' six-game winning streak, Antetokounmpo is averaging 39.4 points, 14.7 rebounds and 5.0 assists.

WARRIORS 119 MAVERICKS 113

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Stephen Curry had 21 points, seven assists and six rebounds before injuring his left leg defending a drive and Golden State beat an undermanned Dallas team missing injured star Luka Doncic.

The Warriors said X-rays for Curry were negative, and he will have an MRI exam.

Draymond Green added 17 points, nine rebounds and nine assists for Golen State.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 25 points for Dallas. Doncic bruised his right heel in the third quarter of 111-106 home victory against New Orleans on Thursday night.

NUGGETS 128, HAWKS 108

DENVER (AP)—Jamal Murray scored a season-high 41 points, Nikola Jokic had his 18th triple-double of the season and Denver beat Atlanta to tie Boston for the best record in the NBA.

Jokic had 14 points, 18 rebounds and 10 assists for the 94th regular-season triple-double of his career. Michael Porter Jr. added 23 points to help Denver match Boston at 37-16 with its third straight victory.

Dejounte Murray scored 28 points for Atlanta.

CLIPPERS 134, KNICKS 128, OT

NEW YORK (AP)—Kawhi Leonard scored 35 points, Paul George added 30 and Los Angeles beat New York in overtime.

After the Clippers lost a 17-point fourth quarter lead, Nicolas Batum's 3-pointer at the regulation buzzer tied it at 115.

The Clippers scored the first four points of overtime and never relinquished the lead. Leonard connected on all of his eight free throws in the extra session, finishing 12 for 12 from the line.

Norman Powell added 24 points for the Clippers and Marcus Morris Sr. had 17. Los Angeles has won seven of nine.

Jalen Brunson, who returned after missing a game due to a non-COVID illness, led the Knicks with 41 points. Julius Randle had 28.

SUNS 116, ISTONS 100

DETROIT (AP)—Deandre Ayton had 31 points and 16 rebounds to help Phoenix beat Detroit.

The surging Sungs have won eight of 10 games, including a victory at Boston on Friday night, and have help on the way with Devin Booker nearing his return. The three-time All-Star guard has been out since Christmas with a groin injury, but dunked in warmups in another sign that he's close to coming back.

Chris Paul had 14 assists for a balanced offense that didn't need him to make shots, finishing 0 for 7 and without a field goal for the first time since March 18, 2017, when he helped the Los Angeles Clippers beat Cleveland by 30 points.

Mikal Bridges scored 24 points, Cameron Johnson had 20 points and Torrey Craig added 14 points for Phoenix. Saddiq Bey had 25 points for Detroit.

THUNDER 153, ROCKETS 121

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 42 points and Oklahoma City set a Thunder record for points to rout Houston.

Oklahoma City surpassed the 150 it scored in a win over the Boston Celtics last month.

Gilgeous-Alexander shot 7 for 23 in a loss to the Rockets on Wednesday night. He bounced back to make 14 of 23 field goals in the rematch, falling two points short of his career high. The first-time All-Star also made 14 of 15 free throws and had six assists.

Josh Christopher and TyTy Washington each scored 20 points for Houston.

BULLS 129, TRAIL BLAZERS 121

CHICAGO (AP)—Zach LaVine scored 36 points, DeMar DeRozan had 27 and Chicago topped Damian Lillard and Portland.

Nikola Vucevic added 23 points and 11 rebounds as Chicago won for the third time in four games, erasing a 17-point deficit in the second half.

Lillard scored 40 points for Portland, and Anfernee Simons had 27. But the Trail Blazers looked a little tired in the second half of their third game in four nights. Portland had won five of six, including a 124-116 victory at Washington on Friday night.

NBA BRIEFS

Cavs All-Star Mitchell ejected after tussle with Grizzlies

CLEVELAND (AP)—Cleveland Cavaliers All-Star guard Donovan Mitchell was ejected in the third quarter Thursday night against Memphis for throwing the ball at Grizzlies guard Dillon Brooks after the players tangled under the basket. Brooks was called for a flagrant-2 foul and was also tossed following the fracas with 5:48 left and the Cavs leading 81-76. After missing a shot and falling in the foul lane, Brooks flung his arm back and struck Mitchell, who was standing over him, in the groin area. Mitchell dropped in pain and retaliated by firing the ball at Brooks and then charging and shoving him along the baseline in front of the Memphis bench. The officials and players were able to get things under control before any punches were thrown. Mitchell received a loud ovation from the Cleveland crowd as he made his way to the locker room following his ejection. Mitchell was having a frustrating night, making just 2 of 11 shots and scoring six points.

Bamba, Rivers, Suggs all suspended after Magic-Wolves dustup

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA has suspended Orlando's Mo Bamba for four games and Minnesota's Austin Rivers for three games for their roles in an on-court altercation on Friday night. Jalen Suggs of the Magic will miss one game, the league said, for escalating the incident. The league announced the suspensions Saturday. Bamba will forfeit $284,138 in salary, while Rivers will lose about $60,121 and Suggs will lose $47,740. Timberwolves forward Jaden McDaniels was fined $20,000 for getting involved in the altercation. Bamba, Rivers, Suggs and McDaniels were all ejected, as was Minnesota's Taurean Prince. The NBA did not give Prince any additional sanction on Saturday. Bamba and Rivers threw punches during the incident, and the NBA said Suggs and McDaniels "then entered the altercation as non-peacemakers." The league also said Bamba "attempted to continue to engage with Rivers in a hostile manner in the corridor outside the locker rooms where he also aggressively shoved a security representative." Both Rivers and Bamba had social media posts about the incident, which the league said continued the escalation.

NBA suspends Brooks, fines Mitchell for Grizz-Cavs scuffle

By TOM WITHERS
AP SPORTS WRITER

Memphis Grizzlies guard Dillon Brooks has been suspended one game without pay by the NBA, and Cleveland Cavaliers guard Donovan Mitchell fined $20,000 for their roles in an on-court incident on Thursday night.

The league announced the punishments on Friday.

Brooks swung and struck Mitchell in the groin area during the third quarter after the Grizzlies guard had fallen to the floor. Mitchell retaliated by throwing the ball at Brooks and then shoving him.

Both players were ejected in Cleveland's 128-113 win.

Afterward, Mitchell accused Brooks of being a dirty player.

"That's just who he is," Mitchell said. "We've seen it a bunch in this league with him. Him and I have had our personal battles for years. There's no place for that in the game. This has been brewing for years with me and other guys in the league. This isn't new."

The league said Brooks will serve his suspension on Sunday, when the Grizzlies host the Toronto Raptors.

Initially, Mitchell was scheduled to speak with reporters in Cleveland's locker room. But the All-Star guard opted for the team's larger interview room so he could address the incident with Brooks.

"I'm losing money," Mitchell said before answering questions.

Mitchell said he and Brooks have been feuding for years. He also noted that Brooks has had similar altercations with other players.

"I'm not typically someone who gets ejected for stuff like that," Mitchell said. "But at the end of the day, I think my reaction was reacting to a cheap shot. If punishment doesn't come from that, he's just going to keep doing it.

"It's just dumb to be honest with you and I'm going to appeal it because I don't think I should've gotten ejected for defending myself."

Before his ejection, Mitchell was having a rough night. He scored just six points on 2-of -1 shooting in 22 minutes while being guarded by Brooks. The two had matched up regularly when Mitchell played for Utah.

"That was cool when we were just talking, but that right there, a line has to be drawn," Mitchell said. "The NBA has to do something about it. I'm not the only person this has happened to and there's no place for that in this game.

"I took matters into my own hands. When you have a cheap shot like that, there was no need to do that."

From Reid to Super Bowls, Eagles 4 stalwarts done it all

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Jason Kelce felt the pull of retirement after the Eagles slogged through a miserable 2020 season and a second Super Bowl any time soon seemed like a joke. The Christmas album crooner,honorary Mummer and All-Pro center—how many players have all those titles in their NFL.com bio?—considered walking away at the end of last season. His future was one of the more pressing offseason questions on tap, so Philadelphia Eagles coach Nick Sirianni shipped the big guy two cases of beer to coax him to stay.

So Kelce stayed.

"I've learned now I don't know when that last game is going to come," the 35-year-old Kelce said.

Hey, at least Kelce knows for sure when the last game this season is going to come.

AP

Philadelphia Eagles general manager Howie Roseman, center, stands with defensive end Brandon Graham (55) offensive tackle Lane Johnson (65), defensive tackle Fletcher Cox, and center Jason Kelce (62) after the NFC Championship NFL football game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023, in Philadelphia.

Kelce has tried not to consider that the Super Bowl against Kansas City could be his final game as an Eagle. But he's not the only veteran Eagle and Super Bowl champion with a murky future. Kelce, Fletcher Cox and Brandon Graham are the lone holdovers from former coach Andy Reid's last season with the Eagles in 2012. There's a chance none of the three will be back for the 2023 season.

"I know them personally and they are tough guys, tough-minded," Reid said. "They're good leaders, fun to be around, and they're good football players. Each one has their own characteristic, but in general I'd tell you that about all of them, great team guys."

Lane Johnson completes the four veteran anchors and was a rookie in former coach Chip Kelly's first season in 2013.

The tenured stars—the Core Four—have won a Super Bowl under former coach Doug Pederson and won just four games in 2020. They've been hurt and set records. They've also raised the standard on what it means to be an Eagle. The best way to do that is go out and win the big one in style.

"Since the day I got here, that's all they talk about," defensive tackle Javon Hargrave said. "Tell me how they feel when they went to the Super Bowl and all the memories they had. It's pretty cool to have people who have done it before."

Hargrave's nod to the veterans was interrupted when Graham pulled on his gaudy Super Bowl jacket—with tags dangling from the sleeve—at the neighboring locker. All they need is a new ring to complete the ensemble.

If they beat the Chiefs, some might go out in Philly on top.

This is no ordinary game for Kelce. On the Kansas City side, there's Reid, the coach who drafted him. Also over there is his brother, tight end Travis Kelce, marking the first time siblings will face off in the Super Bowl. One more thing, Kelce's wife Kylie is pregnant and the couple is bringing their ob-gyn to Arizona just in case.

Kelce has been as durable as they come, with the Super Bowl putting him at 149 consecutive games.

"He's out there at practice every day limping around and giving his all to the team," tight end Dallas Goedert said.

Let's take a look at some of the foursome's finer moments:

■■■■

Jason Kelce. Age 35. Center. Sixth-round pick, 2011. Five-time first-team All-Pro.

The burly, bushy-haired Bird has been a stalwart of the offensive line since he was drafted and as an Iron Man after he missed most of the 2012 season with a partially torn MCL and torn ACL. He's in the last season of his contract.

He's a fan favorite and has done it all outside the football field, such as singing the national anthem at a 76ers game, partying with the Phanatic and pounding a beer to a roaring ovation at a Phillies postseason game.

But the moment that endeared him for life to the Philly faithful came at the 2018 Super Bowl parade when he dressed as one of Philadelphia's famed Mummer's and the ultimate underdog delivered a fiery, profane speech that whipped the crowd into a frenzy.

"No one likes us! No one likes us! No one likes us! We don't care," Kelce exclaimed. "We're from Philly! (Expletive) Philly. No one likes us! We don't care!"

■■■■

Brandon Graham. Age 34. Defensive end. First-round pick. 2010. 2020 Pro Bowl.

The most famous moment in Eagles history is the trick play that saw QB Nick Foles catch a touchdown to lead them past the New England Patriots for the franchise's first Super Bowl victory. Right behind it? Graham's strip-sack of Tom Brady in the same game with 2:21 left in the fourth quarter. Derek Barnett recovered and the Eagles hung on to win 41-33.

He missed most of last season with a torn Achilles but came back to post a career-high 11 sacks. Graham said he's not retiring and was excited about testing free-agency for the first time in his career.

"I know I'm not the guy I was early on," he said. "I do feel like I'm still pass-rushing the same. I'm able to be dominant in the run game. I'm enjoying being the leader for the guys."

■■■■

Lane Johnson. Age 32. Right tackle. First-round pick. 2013. Two-time first-team All-Pro.

Johnson, signed through 2025, bypassed surgery late in the season and has played through the postseason with a torn adductor in his groin. He did not allow a sack all season. But Johnson has received kudos for his openness in dealing with his mental health. Johnson took a leave during the 2021 season as he battled anxiety and depression and has since shared his story at depression treatment clinics in the area.

"I felt the shame, I felt like it was a crutch," Johnson said last year.

■■■■

Fletcher Cox. Age 32. Defensive tackle. First-round pick 2012. First-team All-Pro 2018.

Cox added seven sacks this season to give him 65 in his career. Cox was briefly released last season before signing a new deal for essentially one season. He may not be back in Philly next season but he's not calling it quits.

"I'm still playing at a high level," Cox said. "That hasn't crossed my mind once, at all."

Hurts ready for historic Super Bowl matchup with Mahomes

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Brandon Graham laughed as he recalled all the doubters who rushed him during the offseason and blurted out the same question—the main concern, really—about the state of the Philadelphia Eagles quarterback.

"What's Jalen going to do?" said Graham, the strip-sacking defensive end.

Yes, it's hard to remember now, but Jalen Hurts was a bit of a mystery headed into his second full season as the starting QB. His solid 2021 season was marred by a poor playoff performance against Tampa Bay (that included two crushing interception) and reports of a rough go at organized team activities.

So the question raised around Philly really was, what's Jalen going to do?

"I don't know how many times I got that from fans, even some media people," Graham said. "'I don't know, the X-factor factor is Jalen. We don't know what Jalen is going to do.'"

How about take the Eagles to the brink of their second Super Bowl championship?

Hurts launched the Eagles from preseason 30-1 odds to win the Super Bowl to staking them as 1 1/2-point favorites against Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs in the Super Bowl.

As the seconds ticked down in the NFC championship victory over San Francisco, Graham and Fletcher Cox embraced Hurts on the sideline. Just a couple of defensive stalwarts who wanted to thank the quarterback that made it all happen.

"I was just telling him, I appreciate him because of all the things that he had to overcome this year," Graham said. "You didn't see him get rattled not one time. Man, I'm going to fight for a guy like that every time."

The only true setback this season was a sprained right shoulder that cost Hurts two games. He still is playing through it; Hurts was a modest 15-of-25 passing for 121 yards and ran for 39 yards and a touchdown against the 49ers. The 24-year-old Hurts has downplayed the severity of the injury from the beginning. He simply said Thursday, "I'm getting there."

The AFC champion Chiefs are prepared for Hurts at full speed.

"This is the Jalen Hurts Show at the end of the day," defensive end Frank Clark said. "If you can stop what he's doing, you can possibly slow them down. But he's playing some great football."

Hurts is appreciative of the magnitude of the moment. Mahomes and Hurts are both Texas natives. They are both NFL MVP finalists. And they will be the first Black QBs to face off in a Super Bowl.

Hurts said he tried to live up to the trail blazed in Philadelphia by fellow Black quarterbacks such as Donovan McNabb, Michael Vick and Randall Cunningham. While they are the most notable names, Rodney Peete and Vince Young were also Black starting QBs in Philly.

Hurts was honored to match up with Mahomes.

"I think it's history. I think it's something that's worthy of being noted," Hurts said.

The Chiefs beat the Eagles in October 2021 when Hurts threw for 387 yards and two touchdowns. Mahomes? Well, he threw for five. But the game was one of the earliest signs that Hurts would grow into the man in Philly.

"He had a great game this day," Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said, "but he continues to get better."

The Eagles stunned their fans when they drafted Hurts out of Oklahoma in the second round in 2020. They seemingly had Carson Wentz entrenched at QB and had more pressing needs. Hurt was expected to serve as insurance for Wentz. Instead, he supplanted him. Now the Eagles are on the road to Glendale, Arizona.

"When we drafted him, it was the upside we were banking on," Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said. "We thought he had a huge upside. It takes a couple years. And somebody so dedicated as Jalen and such a great teammate, inevitably he is going to maximize everything he has and that's what he's done."

The only mystery surrounding Hurts these days is just how much he can maximize his next contract. Hurts is due for a raise and he's going to get paid. Mahomes agreed in July 2020 to a 10-year extension worth up to $503 million. The deal is worth $477 million in guarantee mechanisms and included a no-trade clause and opt-out clauses if guarantee mechanisms aren't met. What's Hurts worth? Try in the neighborhood of $50 million a season when it's time to negotiate his second contract.

The only hiccup might be the length. The NFL's salary cap will be $224.8 million in 2023, an increase of $16.6 million. At that rate, Hurts could be in his late 20s when the cap creeps toward $300 million and there's more room to spend.

The Eagles are addressing those thorny topics after the Super Bowl.

"He is a great young leader. He is a terrific young quarterback," Lurie said.

In just over a week, he could be a Super Bowl winner.

Guardians win first boys MS v-ball game

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Saipan Community School Guardians boys varsity volleyball team won their first game in the second day of games in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Middle School Volleyball League 2022-2023 last Thursday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Guardians defeated Hopwood Middle School varsity in two sets, putting the Guardians at 1-1 in the win-loss column so far in the season.

Guardians team captain David Ye helped lead his team with hard spikes and defense at the net, edging the Hilitais in a close first set and getting out of the jam, 23-21.

In the second set, the Hilitais tried to force a tie-breaking third set as their rotation of Kios Martino, Jay Manas, NJ Pino, Rafael Pascual, Raven Pascual, Twayne Kapwich, Alvin Saimon, Tyrses Monkeya, Randolph Cobacaha, and Leelan Litulumar, tried their best to navigate through the Guardians' defenses.

A series of the Hilitais' points were landed from a few aces, but after their streak was broken, the Guardians grabbed the chance and retaliated.

The Guardians' Ma'ase Deoro, Oliver Huang, Daniel Li, David Park, Landon Springer, and Eugene So helped their team captain from a few aces up their sleeves, and with their well placed returns, caused the Hilitais to slip up and make a few mistakes, costing them the second set, 21-16.

In other results that night, Tanapag Middle School schooled Mount Carmel School, 21-17, 21-9; on the south court, Agape Christian School defeated Grace Christian Academy in three sets, 21-18, 23-25, and 15-11; and the last game of the night, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School defeated ChaCha Ocean View Middle School, 18-21, 21-17, 15-11.

In Pool A standings, TMS is on top with two wins; DanDan Middle School has one win; HMS has one loss, and MCS has two losses.

In Pool B Standings, ACS leads with two wins; FMS is 1-1; Saipan International School has one win, GCA has one loss, and COVMS has two losses.

In the junior varsity standings, only SCS and DMS have played so far, with DMS at one win and SCS with one loss.

LEIGH GASES

Saipan Community School Guardians team captain David Ye spikes a return during the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Middle School Volleyball League 2022-2023 last Thursday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Deadline for White Coconut Classic extended

Woo

Elliot

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The entry deadline for the 2023 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament has been extended to today, Feb. 6.

Tournament director Colin Ramsey said the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association extended the deadline to give other members of the tennis community a chance to take part in the competition, which will be held on two weekends—Feb. 10-12 and Feb. 17-20 at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Divisions up for grabs are men's singles open, 4.0, 3.0, 40-plus, and 60-plus and women's singles open, 4.0, 3.0, 40-plus, and 60-plus.

In the juniors side, there will be singles boys 16&U, 14&U, 12& U, and 10&U, while girls will have 16&U, 14&U, 12&U, and 10&U.

All players are also entered in the mixed up doubles, which will be randomly drawn, while doubles will be a blind draw with adult/junior teams.

Ramsey said the White Coconut Classic is part of the NMITA calendar of events to prepare junior netters for the North Pacific Junior Championships.

"There are few tournaments left before the top juniors compete in the NPRC so every tournament counts! This is a unique tournament. It is the only tournament I know of that has players compete for a coconut. I'm not sure how the idea started, but I believe it was to be able to raise the most money possible. Without the need to purchase trophies, and by holding a potluck ceremony at the end of the two weekend event, the coconut classic ensures that nearly all the money raised can go directly to the NMITA, which will eventually help fund overseas competitions for the juniors," he said.

Another unique aspect of the White Coconut Classic, Ramsey said, is its randomized mixed doubles event.

"A junior is paired randomly with an adult and put into a large draw with everyone who signed up. It's a really fun event and gives the younger players an extra challenge and an opportunity to learn from playing against and alongside an adult."

Entry fee for the White Coconut Classic is $25 for singles and doubles combined and already includes NMITA 2023 membership fee.

Seeding and draws will be posted on Feb. 9, Thursday, and for more information, call Ramsey at (670) 783-2240.

PACIFIC

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nia Group III Davis Cup Event in Tay Ninh, Vietnam.

Entering the tie ranked No. 74 in the world, Pacific Oceania beat No. 69 Vietnam in the finals not only to get a promotion to the Group II Play-Offs in 2023 but also take the No. 1 place in the positional Play-Offs.

Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy gave Pacific Oceania a 1-0 lead after defeating Linh Giang Trinh, 7-6 (4), 6-3, in the opening singles.

Vietnam, however, equalized when Nam Hoang Ly, who is ranked No. 344 in the world, got the better of the CNMI's Colin Sinclair, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

In the deciding doubles, Sinclair teamed up with Cook Islands' Brett Baudinet and outlasted Ly and Quoc-Khanh Le, 6-7(8), 6-3, 6-3.

INTERSCHOLASTIC

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phins came in at 06:53.650; and the KHS Ayuyus clocked in last with a time of 07:13.030.

Justin Andrew, president of the Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation, or NMNPSF, was seen out in the waters supporting the schools and the sport. He said that the young paddlers are promising and the goal is to get them to the level where they can get into the national program. On the opening day of competition, he said "We're so happy to have good weather and a good turnout."

"We're seeing a really better level of skills and preparedness and I think it's because of the time given to the kids. I think they started practicing in October, so that's a lot better than before… most of the kids are in outrigger clubs too," he said.

Tianna Aldan, head coach for the Dolphins, said that the hardest race is the 500m as it is the fastest, "if you make a mistake, it's very easy for you to get left behind, unlike the 1,000m race, it's three turns, and there's a lot of time to catch up." On their team's chemistry, she said that "we just try to promote a very good, healthy, and safe environment for the students. I don't promote any violence or bullying so a lot of them are actually friends in and out of school, so it makes the team come together a lot better because they already know each other."

As for the competition, she said that "we're just excited to be here and it's very tough this year because everyone wants to win.

Maiyah Duenas, coach for the Napu Outrigger Canoe Club, who is assisting the KHS outrigger teams, was interviewed and said that their biggest strength is the love they have for each other. "The fact that we can come together and disregard all the negative energy and just bring in the positive vibes, it'll never fail."

Joe Weaver, head coach for SSHS, said that this year's competition is "very competitive. Everybody's basically the same skill level. Everybody has new paddlers and some are returning, just like our club. We have a few veterans coming back, but we have a lot of new paddlers and my women have new steerers, so it's pretty even, I believe."

With the performance of his teams, he said "each team's getting their kinks out, fine-tuning things, and fine-tuning crews. We're just seeing how we all match up with each other. As we progress, I hope my team gets better, as I'm sure they'll do the same, so we just want to stay in winning form and stay up with the competition."

The championships are set for March 11.

Last season's champions of the women and co-ed divisions were the KHS Ayuyus, while the SSHS Manta Rays won the perpetual championship trophy in the boys division.

NMBA

From Page 20

of Janelle Pangilinan and Jenine Savellano won the bronze medal against Tahiti, allowing the NMI to medal in all nine sports of the Mini Games. "This was also our first medal in a regional competition," said Tolentino.

Also in 2022, on the interscholastic level, they had the inaugural season of the Take-Care Interscholastic Badminton League and had a good turnout from both the public and private schools well represented in the competition for middle and high school divisions, with nearly 200 students participating in the program.

"We have our partners, the CNMI Public School System and Athletics director Nick Gross and staff, coaches/teachers, school officials, and parents of players to thank for the success of the program," she said.

While the biggest highlight of the year, Tolentino said, was the Mini Games, NMBA would still want to mention the success of the inaugural interscholastic league, "because that's our grassroots program. This is where we will get and train our future national team players."

For what 2023 has in store, she said that NMBA is "looking at resuming our local competitions since last year we had to give way to the PMG and the preparations of our national team."

Also, this Feb. 8-15, the NMI National Badminton team will compete in regional tournaments—the Pacific U15 Junior Team Competition, and in the Victor Oceania Individual and Team Championships from Feb. 13 to 19—both in New Zealand.

And, for the first time, CNMI will host not just one but two badminton Olympic qualifiers. The first one is the Northern Marianas Open 2023, which will be held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium from June 6 to 11. The second one is the Saipan International 2023, which is scheduled for June 13 to 18.

"We are looking at drawing 100 players from Pacific Oceania, Asia, and other countries that would gun for Olympic ranking points to have a chance to play in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. We also have our ongoing second season of Interscholastic Badminton League and this time we have more teams and more students participating. It's been our goal since the establishment of the NMBA for badminton to be included in the interscholastic program," she said.

Tolentino and the NMBA then thanked everyone who has contributed to the success of NMI badminton, "not just in 2022, but through the years. Special thanks to the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, which has supported it since Day 1. Badminton can still be considered as a relatively new sport in the NMI and even in Pacific Oceania, but through everyone's support, we are able to make significant strides."

She said that this year will be another special year for badminton, as the NMI hosts two Olympic qualifiers. "We are requesting support from our community. This is an opportunity for our players to compete in a very high-level tournament and also an opportunity for the community to witness games from top players in the region. We will continue to bring our programs to our youth through Shuttle Time and the interscholastic competitions, as we are looking at badminton and other related activities as platforms to encourage our community to stay active and live a healthier lifestyle through sports."

LeBron James moves 36 points away from breaking NBA record

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Guardians win first boys MS v-ball game

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Interscholastic outrigger canoe is back

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Interscholastic va'a racing competitions are back after the first race day of the co-ed high school Public School System Interscholastic Outrigger Canoe Race 2022-2023 unfolded last Saturday in the waters off Kilili Beach in Susupe.

The three public high schools—Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, and Kagman High School—are in the running again for the championship this year, determined by which team garners the most points. However, on the first day of races, there were no points given out to any team yet.

The sunny morning started with the 500m women's, men's, and co-ed preliminary race, followed by the 1,000m women's, men's, and co-ed preliminary race, then the 500m women's, men's, and co-ed finals, and the 1,000m finals women's, men's, and co-ed finals.

In the women's 1,000m finals, the Lady Dolphins paddled to victory with a time of 07:09.990; followed by the Lady Ayuyus at 07:44.490; and the Lady Mantas came in last with 07:44.060

In the men's 1,000m finals, Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays were one with the tide as they glided to first place with a time of 06:07.800; second was Marianas High School Dolphins with a time of 06:27.260; and Kagman High School Ayuyus clocked in at 06:28.740.

The co-ed 1,000m finals was dominated again by the SHSS Mantas as they bagged first place with a time of 06:40.610; the MHS Dol-

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LEIGH GASES
The Saipan Southern High School co-ed outrigger team and the Marianas High School, co-ed outrigger team, back, are seen neck-and-neck during the 500m finals on Saturday in the opening events of the co-ed high school Public School System Interscholastic Outrigger Canoe Race 2022-2023 at Kilili Beach in Susupe.

Pacific Oceania loses to Barbados, relegated to Group III

By MARK RABAGO
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Pacific Oceania has been relegated to Group III in the Davis Cup competition after losing its Group II tie against Barbados, 3-2, this weekend in the National Tennis Centre in Bridgetown, Barbados.

The hosts clinched the tie yesterday after their No. 2 Kaipo Marshall beat Pacific Oceania's No. 2 Clement Mainguy of Vanuatu, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Earlier, Barbados forced a do-or-die second singles after their top singles player Darian King defeated Pacific Oceania's No. 1 Colin Sinclair of the CNMI, 7-6, 6-3, to even the tie at 2-2.

Pacific Oceania pulled ahead, 2-1, of Barbados after Sinclair and Brett Baudient of the Cook Islands defeated King and Matthew Foster Estwick, 4-6, 7-6, 7-5, in the doubles.

Last Saturday, Barbados drew first blood when King didn't allow Mainguy to celebrate his 20th birthday with a win after beating him, 6-4, 6-0, in an hour and 11 minutes.

Pacific Oceania, however, responded quickly with Sinclair routing Marshall, 6-2, 6-1.

Last August, Pacific Oceania returned to Group II after topping the 2022 Asia/Ocea-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Pacific Oceania team poses for a group photo before their Davis Cup Group II tie against Barbados in Bridgetown, Barbados this past weekend. At left is the CNMI's Colin Sinclair.

NMBA met milestones in 2022

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Badminton Association successfully met milestones in 2022, according to its president Merlie Tolentino.

As to what milestones, she said one is the successful hosting of the badminton competition during the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games.

"Through the help of the Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee, Northern Marianas Sports Association, Badminton Oceania, and our countless volunteers, we're able to provide a safe, convenient, and nicely set up competition venue not just for participating athletes and officials, but as well as spectators," said Tolentino.

With that, thanks to everyone's efforts, NMBA has received positive feedback on the venue and the competition management from the visiting delegations and Badminton Oceania.

Secondly, on the last day of the Games, the badminton women's doubles team

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Janelle Pangilinan, right, and Jenine Savellano completed the NMI's medal tally for all nine games after they won bronze in the badminton women's doubles against Tahiti in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 last June.